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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Foreign Ministers Assess Peace Negotiations

JN0606163692 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1540 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] The coordination meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries participating in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations began in Amman this afternoon. These countries are Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine.

During this meeting, the ministers will assess the previous sessions of negotiations, exchange views on them, and coordinate the Arab positions concerning the forthcoming sessions.

Jordan's Abu-Jabir Comments

JN0606201092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] The first working session of the foreign ministers of the four Arab countries participating in the bilateral peace negotiations with Israel ended in Amman this evening. Our correspondent Khalil al-Qaryuti reports on the details.

[Begin recording] [al-Qaryuti] The first working session of foreign ministers of the four Arab countries participating in the bilateral peace negotiations with Israel lasted more than three hours. During this session, a comprehensive assessment of the peace talks was held, and other topics were discussed. Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir spoke to reporters after the session about what was discussed during the meeting.

[Abu-Jabir] The talks were comprehensive. Understanding was reached on almost all the points under discussion.

[Unidentfied reporter] What are the most prominent points you discussed?
[Abu-Jabir] First, the question of evaluating the peace process to date—the five rounds. Then, we discussed coordinating our positions about the sixth round, which will be held in Rome.

[Reporter] Have you agreed on an approximate date for the upcoming round?
[Abu-Jabir] We agreed that the sixth round would be held only after the Israeli elections, but, we did not decide on a specific date, as there are other factors and circumstances that should be taken into consideration, including the position of the cosponsors of the conference.

[Reporter] Have you decided anything with respect to the situation in Lebanon?
[Abu-Jabir] The Lebanese delegation comprehensively reviewed what is occurring in Lebanon—particularly the continuation and escalation of the aggression against southern Lebanon—and asked that we support Lebanon's request to the Arab League for holding an Arab foreign ministers meeting.

[Reporter] Will a final statement be issued at the end of your meetings?
[Abu-Jabir] Yes; such a statement will be issued tomorrow morning, God willing.

[Reporter] What occurred with respect to the siege in the occupied territories?
[Abu-Jabir] A comprehensive review was also made of what is occurring in the occupied territories, particularly the repression operations, beatings, and terrorism that are occurring in Gaza.

[Reporter] Will there be another meeting?
[Abu-Jabir] A final meeting wil be held tomorrow morning to review the contents of the final statement and approve its details. All the parties agree about the broad lines, the principles, the bases, and the rules governing the peace process. The most important point, of course, is that it should be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, the principle of exchanging land for peace, and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 with respect to the occupied Arab territories in Palestine and the Golan, not to mention Resolution 425 with respect to the occupied Lebanese territories. [end recording]

The foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine will resume their meetings in Amman tomorrow to pursue discussion of the items listed on the meeting's agenda.

Lebanon's Foreign Minister Cited

NC0706052592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The first working session of the Arab foreign ministers meetings ended at 2000 yesterday. At the end of the session, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz stated that the quadripartite meeting supported Lebanon's urgent call for convening the Arab League Council to adopt a unified position supporting Lebanon's efforts and the Lebanese people in the south, who are coming under continued Israeli attack.

Buwayz said: We will also discuss—within the framework of the Arab League—the issue of convening the UN Security Council and what additional measures should be taken. He stated that the issue of the south is an Arab responsibility, because the events there are linked with the peace process.

Syrian, Lebanese Ministers Comment

JN0706125792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Syrian and Lebanese foreign ministers and the head of the PLO Information Department met with reporters and assessed the results of the Amman meeting. Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said:

Israel

The "limited, controlled" entry of Gazans into Israel proper will be permitted as of 8 June, Jerusalem radio reported. Laborers 28 years old and older will be allowed into Israel, but only to work at establishments employing 10 or more workers. Israeli employers must agree to transport the workers to and from the Gaza Strip, according to the radio. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio reported that settlers blocked Gaza checkpoints and threw stones in a bid to prevent Gazans from going to work in Israel. An IDF spokesman denied the report.

Syria

Damascus is not seeking a confrontation with Israel, "but if it is imposed on us, we will face it with all our power," according to Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Addressing a news conference in Amman, Jordan, al-Shar said the Israeli raids on southern Lebanon "exacerbate tension" that could lead to a "confrontation," Damascus radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat was discharged from the hospital on 6 June and went on to chair a PLO Executive Committee meeting in Amman on 8 June, Amman Radio reported. The meeting focused on the peace process and the upcoming Israeli elections. In other news, PLO representative 'Atif Busaysu was shot to death in Paris by unknown gunmen the night of 7-8 June, MENA reported. Two gunmen shot him with silencer-equipped pistols in front of the Meridien Hotel in the Montparnasse district, according to the press agency. "Reliable" Palestinian sources blamed Israel's Mosad for the killing. MENA added that the 42-year-old Busaysu had received two recent warnings that Mosad had his name at the top of a list of "condemned people."

Jordan

The Palestinian issue "remains our most important Arab cause," King Husayn stated. Addressing a graduation ceremony at Mu'tah University, the king said: "We are seeking a peace capable of regaining the rights of the Palestinians on their national soil under their sole, legitimate leadership, which they have chosen," Amman radio reported. In another development, "informed sources in Amman" said the United States has decided to suspend the Bright Star aerial maneuvers with Jordan, scheduled for the end of June, Paris Radio Monte Carlo reported. The report cited "what Washington considers to be Jordanian violations of the anti-Iraq embargo" as the reason for the suspension. Meanwhile, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Amman, Amman radio reported. 'Aziz and 'Arafat reviewed the "latest developments in the Arab, international, and Palestinian arenas," according to the radio.

Inter-Arab Affairs

The third coordination meeting for foreign ministers of Arab countries participating in the bilateral peace negotiations was held in Amman 6-7 June. The foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, and the PLO Political Department head participated in the meeting. The final communique at the end of the meeting "condemned the continuing Israeli operations against Lebanon," according to Beirut radio. The communique also called for implementing UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 "with a view to establishing a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in the region," Beirut radio further reported.

"There is no doubt that the Amman meeting has achieved major progress in Arab solidarity. The meeting was characterized by much realism, clarity, and accuracy, and assessment and analysis were made at the expense of one-upmanship and, perhaps, of emotion and sentiments. We can say that the peace process was assessed in great depth, and we succeeded in foreseeing the future steps to be taken. Undoubtedly, we are moving toward supporting and activating Arab solidarity after troubling stages."

During his meeting with the press, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' reviewed a number of important issues, which were included in the final statement. He said:

"I would like only to say that we, as a Syrian delegation, are satisfied with the results of this quadripartite meeting. The statement issued by the meeting completely expresses what we had expected from it."

Regarding Israel's provocations against Syria as well as its continued shelling of southern Lebanon, al-Shar' said:

"Undoubtedly, Israel's escalation of its aggression against Lebanon has several objectives. Among them are achieving electoral gains for the Shamir government and placing the region on the brink of a war. As we have said and affirmed in Syria, we do not seek such a confrontation, but if it is imposed on us, we will face it with all our power."

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, assessed the results of the meeting, saying:

"This meeting, in fact, has achieved great success. We agreed to continue coordination among the four sides. We also agreed to extend invitations to all the Arab brothers to increase and activate Arab coordination and solidarity to secure and protect joint Arab interests, achieve effective support for the Arab sides participating in the negotiations, and to be able to render the negotiating process successful in favor of a comprehensive solution and Arab rights. The unity of the Arab position will reflect on relations among the four Arab sides. We will hold another meeting in Damascus within several weeks to further assess the situation in light of the expected political developments."

During the ministers' statements to journalists, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz expressed confidence that the Arab unity of ranks will be restored and that total support for Lebanon's demand for convening a ministerial meeting of the Arab League Council will lead to an Arab summit conference.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also said that an eight-way meeting, including Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council member states could be a preparatory step toward convening and paving the way for an Arab summit.

'Regret' Over Lack of Progress

JN0706123892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1120 GMT 7 Jun 92

["Press Statement" issued by the foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon and the chief of the PLO Political Department at the end of their meetings in Amman on 7 June—read by announcer]

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab parties participating in the peace process bilateral talks met on 6 and 7 June 1992 in the Jordanian capital, Amman, at the invitation of the foreign minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan within the framework of their continued coordination consultations about the peace process.

The heads of the Arab delegations to the bilateral peace talks participated in this meeting.

The participants assessed the progress of the bilateral talks since the Madrid peace conference. They expressed regret that no substantial progress has been made in these talks due to the Israeli Government's continued refusal to abide by the basic principles of the peace process, particularly the principle of returning the occupied Arab land in exchange for peace by implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israel's withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian lands occupied in 1967; guaranteeing the Palestinian Arab people's national and political legitimate rights in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy; and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Lebanese territory and implementing Security Council Resolution 425 to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The ministers stressed their concern to continue the peace process based on the return of all occupied Arab territory and all Arab legitimate rights. They called on the cosponsors of the peace conference and the international community to make Israel comply with the bases of the peace process and to stop its aggressive actions and provocations to prepare the appropriate atmosphere for rendering this process a success.

The ministers condemned the continuing Israeli aggressions against Lebanon. They expressed their full support for the efforts made by the Lebanese state to liberate all the Lebanese territories occupied by Israel and to confront the constant Israeli aggressions against the Lebanese people and territory.

During their discussion of all aspects of the peace process and their review of the Israeli Government's intentions to destroy this process, the ministers decided to support the Lebanese Government's request for calling the Arab League Council into emergency session on the ministerial level to support Lebanon's steadfastness and to identify the means of extending such support.

The ministers condemned the ceaseless Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Holy Jerusalem, as well as the continuous

human rights violations against Palestinians, the latest being the complete siege imposed on the Gaza Strip as well as the raids on Palestinian camps.

The ministers warned of the seriousness of the Israeli attempts to bring the holy sites under Israeli control and Judaize the holy city. They affirmed the need to immediately implement the Fourth Geneva Convention on all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

In view of all that has been mentioned, the ministers would like to draw the attention of the world public and the Security Council to the seriousness of the Israeli conduct, which reveals a feeling that it is exempted from compliance with the principles of international law and from commitment to the rules of international legitimacy.

The ministers called upon the world community to make Israel halt its violations, respect the principles of international legitimacy, and implement UN and Security Council resolutions without any procrastination or prevarication.

The ministers were unanimous about the importance of continuing the coordination about the peace process. They underscored the importance of solidarity and joint Arab action, which would safeguard pan-Arab interests and support the positions of the Arab parties participating in the bilateral talks.

The ministers decided to hold the next coordination meeting in the Syrian capital, Damascus, at the ministerial level.

Ministers Conclude Meetings

JN0706100792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The coordination meetings of the foreign ministers of Arab states participating in the peace negotiations concluded this morning.

The participants issued a statement about the results and the topics that were raised during the meetings. They expressed regret over having made no substantial progress in the Middle East peace talks, due to the Israeli Government's continued refusal to abide by the principles of the peace process—particularly returning Arab land in exchange for peace.

The ministers stressed their concern to continue the peace process based on returning all occupied Arab territories and all their legitimate rights. They called on the cosponsors of the peace conference and the international community to persuade Israel to comply with the principles of the peace process and to stop its aggressive actions and provocations to prepare the appropriate atmosphere for rendering this process a success.

In their statement, the ministers condemned the continuing Israeli attacks on Lebanon. They voiced their full support for Lebanon's efforts to liberate all Israeli-occupied Lebanese territories and to confront the recurrent Israeli attacks on Lebanon—land and people. The ministers also condemned Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories—including holy Jerusalem—and the continued violation of Palestinian human rights. They also warned against the dangers of the Israeli attempts to impose hegemony over the holy sites and to Judaize the holy city.

The ministers agreed on the importance of continued coordination about the peace process, as well as the importance of solidarity and joint Arab action in a way that would protect pan-Arab interests and enhance the positions of the Arab sides participating in the bilateral negotiations.

In their statement, the ministers decided to hold the next coordination meeting at the ministerial level in Damascus.

Syria To Continue Participation in Bilateral Talks

PM0506154492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jun 92 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Syrian Efforts to Normalize Egyptian-Iranian Relations"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad informed Egyptian President Husni Mubarak of Syria's intention to continue participating in the bilateral peace negotiations. But at their summit meeting in Damascus the day before yesterday, President al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's refusal to participate in the multilateral negotiations before clear progress is made in the bilateral negotiations.

A senior Egyptian official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the two presidents agreed to hold intensive contacts with the United States to request an end to the Israeli military operations in southern Lebanon. The official revealed that the Syrian president reaffirmed his commitment to implementing the al-Ta'if agreement, withdrawing the Syrian forces from Lebanon next September, and Syrian nonintervention in the Lebanese elections scheduled for August.

Informed political circles in Cairo stated that the swift Damascus summit produced significant results reflecting Egyptian and Syrian agreement about the following major issues:

1. Determination to boost the peace process at the level of bilateral or multilateral negotiations. Syrian participation in the coming rounds is crucial and vital, because Syria is one of the main parties to these negotiations, provided parallel moves are made within the international community to compel Israel to accept the land-for-peace principle, to adopt a balanced approach to the bilateral and multilateral negotiations, and to reaffirm the need for implementing Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

2. It became clear to Syria, and it was convinced—on the basis of what Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said—that Israel has no territorial ambitions in Syria; that its withdrawal from the Golan Heights has been determined by the various attitudes; and that the end of the Israeli elections, the campaign for which has been full of upstaging by the various parties, will mark the beginning of a more positive Israeli attitude, despite the provocative statements made by Shamir and his aides about the Golan and the settlements.

3. On the basis of what President al-Asad told President Mubarak, Egypt is now fully convinced of the importance of rectifying Egyptian-Iranian relations, with Iran looking forward to closer and more effective relations and its interest in eliminating the blemishes of the past period. That would pave the way to a new phase of relations that takes account of mutual interests and Egypt's and Iran's position in the region. That would be significant in confirming the Islamic states' unity in the face of challenges and in eliminating differences.

4. There must be an immediate end to the Israeli aggressions against southern Lebanon, which are part of the upstaging process in the Israeli election campaign, which is approaching its end. There will be a new joint Egyptian-Syrian move to make the international community—and particulary the United Nations and its Security Council—shoulder its responsibility in protecting Lebanon against the Israeli plan to wrest more Lebanese territory, in addition to what Syria could do for the sake of that particular cause.

5. The Egyptian-Syrian summit could present a new concept for Egyptian-Sudanese relations in the coming phase and could facilitate Egypt's and Sudan's task in resolving their differences over borders and other pending issues, particularly since the recent al-Bashir-al-Asad summit in Damascus confirmed Khartoum's interest in mending its relations with Egypt.

Al-Shar' Views Peace Process

NC0606190492 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jun 92

["Exclusive statement" and interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by MBC Damascus correspondent Sa'd al-Silawi in Amman on 6 June—recorded]

[Excerpt] [al-Shar'] Beginning with the Madrid conference, the peace process has revealed that Israel does not want peace and is obstructing the peace talks, which alone constitutes an important victory for the Arabs before world public opinion. Israel cannot obstruct international efforts to implement the UN resolutions forever. A point must be reached when these resolutions are either implemented and Israel complies with international law, or the whole issue is taken to the Security Council.

[al-Silawi] In view of President Hafiz al-Asad's tour of the Arab Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia, how important is the role of these countries in the peace process?

[al-Shar'] President al-Asad's tour of the fraternal Arab countries in the Gulf was meant to revive Arab solidarity. It was also meant to initiate joint action to improve the Arab situation and emphasize that the Arabs have rights and land that must be restored and that collective action is the best way to prompt the international community to pressure Israel into implementing the Security Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

Arab League Chief Departs for 'Earth Summit'

NC0706093492 Cairo MENA in English 0700 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, June 7 (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left here this morning for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with his accompanying delegation to take part in the "earth summit" [UN Conference on Environment and Development, UNCED] currently in session there.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will address the summit on behalf of the Arab countries. About one hundred heads of state are taking part in the said summit.

AMU Chairman Cited on Maghreban Currency, Trade

LD0506175692 Rabat MAP in English 1317 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Tunis, June 5 (MAP)—Only a harmonious economic and exchange policy can help achieve convertibility of Maghreban countries currency, Chairman of the Maghreban Banks Union, Abdelatif Jouahiri told the "L'ECONOMISTE MAGHREBIN" weekly.

The UMA [Arab Maghreb Union] official expressed confidence that the financial and economic policies adopted by the UMA member countries will liberalize trade among the five countries and abolish all obstacles hindering the evolution of foreign trade.

For Jouahiri, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Libya at a lesser level have adopted an increasingly realistic exchange rate policy.

On the recent meeting of the Maghreban Banks board of directors, Jouahiri said it was an opportunity to draw up an action plan for the rest of 1992 and for the future.

Islamic Affairs

Iran's Khamene'i Cited on 'New World Order'

LD0706152792 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i today urged all Muslim nations to get to know and assess the new world situation

and adopt "a united, worthy and calculated stand to face it as soon as possible." He also called on Muslim heads of state not to "fear Islam" and withstand the U.S. as the leader of the anti-Islamic front of arrogance.

The leader warned that one of the principled lines in the American "new world order" designed for the post-communist era was "de-Islamization or confrontation with the ever-increasing Islamic movements."

Ayatollah Khamene'i made the remarks in a message addressed to hundreds of thousands of hajj pilgrims gathered in holy Mecca for the annual pilgrimage. The leader's message was read over one hundred thousand Iranian pilgrims as well as pilgrims from various Islamic countries who joined them in a "deliverance from pagans" rally in Mecca. [sentence as published]

The new situation, said the leader in his message, has two main characteristics: Firstly it shows that Islamic thinking and Islamic identity have acquired further strength, glory and vivacity throughout the world and that the Islamic doctrine is studied and discussed as one of the most outstanding, permanent truths of the world of existence. And secondly the dominating powers in the world have adopted a more open and unambiguous stance against Islam and Islamic goals.

"Anyone following and studying the statements and policies of the American statesmen on Islam, on contemporary Islamic movements, on the peoples and states that speak of their inclination and devotion for Islam, on those that pretend or want to form Islamic administration, will undoubtedly uncover their unending hatred and enmity towards Islam and anything Islamic," the message said.

In practice, it added, this tendency is evident in many current international developments, and cited the slaughter of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the civil wars in Karabakh and in the Caucasus as prominent examples.

"The bloody savage suppression and massacre of Muslims in Sarajevo, in the heartland of 'civilized' Europe, is so vicious and barbarous that it could only be compared with the notorious Medieval massacres carried out in the course of religious-racial wars of this war-mongering continent. The only difference is that today the Serbs of former Yugoslavia are employing modern weapons for the slaughtering of Muslims," he regretted. He also accused the Western governments "that would readily interfere in the affairs of distant countries on the pretext of human rights" of gladly watching the slaughter.

But he said the U.S. Administration and other European countries had done their best in the same region to prevent such massacres in the case of other newly established republics (of former Yugoslavia) because the people there were not Muslims.

He also said the U.S. and European Governments were able to prevent the massacre of Muslims in Karabakh by exerting political pressures and through diplomatic channels but that they had done nothing. Instead, he said, they conspired to neutralize the mediation efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran and demonstrated their lack of sympathy for the newly-independent nation.

Among the evidences for the animosity of the U.S. Administration and its agents as well as other colonial-minded powers towards Islam, Islamic awakening and the restoration by Muslims of their Islamic identity, Ayatollah Khamene'i mentioned the following:

The U.S. Administration's attempt to frighten the newly-independent nations of Central Asia of their Islamic inclinations or "fundamentalism" as they call it, their adverse stance wherever signs of Islamic awakening are observable plainly demonstrated in the case of the democratic triumphs of Algerian Muslims, their deceptive and hypocritical behaviors with the Iraqi people and finally landing them into the present tragic and miserable situation, and their grudging enmity vis-a-vis the Sudanese authorities because of their Islamic propensities.

The leader of the Islamic revolution then drew the attention of the heads and leaders of the Muslim countries to the vast and unending power of their own Muslim peoples and said: "Backed by their invincible power, the Islamic states will be in a strong position to withstand the United States of America as the leader of the anti-Islamic front of arrogance. This is the only way to rectify the rights of their peoples and to defend the rights of the other oppressed Muslim nations."

He said that Muslim governments were expected that instead of "fearing Islam"—which the Americans and other arrogant powers try hard to instil in the hearts of the Islamic states—they would view the divine Islamic doctrine as the school of salvation of their nations and as the firm bond among Muslim nations who are the component parts of the great Islamic umma.

All that is expected from Muslim governments may be realised through the will and determination of their own peoples, it said, adding that Muslim people should demand from their governments to confront Zionism and global arrogance, to defend the oppressed Muslims throughout the world and to strengthen union brotherhood and harmony with other Muslim states and peoples.

Likewise, it said, the Muslim peoples should back their governments devotedly and steadfastly for the achievement of such sublime goals. They should encourage their governments not to fear the United States and to stand up to American bullying tactics, it said, adding that they should make them realise that the path of Islam and the Koran is the only path to salvation.

Elsewhere in his message, Ayatollah Khamene'i said the West was entangled in a terrible web of human problems and despite an abundance of material resources at its disposal, it is absolutely unable to establish social justice.

"The recent uprising of the black people in America proved once more that the American system not only is unjust towards peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America but actually treats its own citizens in the same manner and its reaction to them, like everywhere else, is suppression and state violence against any form of protest.

"It is true that the communist camp has collapsed and disappeared but its sinal [as received], the capitalist camp that is proudly and arrogantly enjoying the status of the only superpower in the world for the time being, is so badly entrapped in its own confused position that it too, sooner or later, will go the way of the other superpower and the world will witness its deadline and final collapse."

On the question of Palestine, the leader said if, at the time of the establishment of the usurper Zionist regime, the leaders of Palestine and the Palestinian people had shown the same valor, courage and devotion that today's Islamic "intifadah" is showing in the face of the Zionists, they could have prevented the present, unfortunate, poisoned and tortuous predicament.

"Today usurping Zionists with the total support of the United States have become so shamelessly bold that they do not even recognize the Palestinian nation. To them Palestine has no meaning whatsoever. But the whole world knows that the Palestinian people are an ancient nation with undeniable historical and geographical roots. It is indeed the unreal, fictitious 'Israeli nation' that has no historical origin or geographical affinity in Palestine.

"In other parts of the Islamic world where people are faithfully attached to Islam as in the newly independent Republics (of the former Soviet Union) whose people, after some seven decades of de- Islamization by communists, are welcoming Islam wholeheartedly, the anti-Islamic powers speak of 'the threat of Islamic tendencies'. In their lexicon, the Muslims' spiritual attachment of their religion are labelled 'threats' and 'dangers'...

"The Muslim governments' negligence in their fight against the usurper Zionist regime, persuaded the Americans to stage the direct- talks show between Arabs and Israelis and some arab leaders, without realising the consequences of such a serious blow, declared their acquiescence. The only thing that came out of these negotiations was that the usurper Zionist regime achieved its objective of being recognized by Arab states without even retreating an inch from its aggressive positions.

"What are the Zionists doing at present? Apart from what they have been doing in the past, that in terrorism, kidnapping, occupying lands in Palestine and Lebanon, suppressing and slaughtering people and committing other customary crimes, they are now engaged in daily air raids against the rural areas of south Lebanon and committing most nefarious crimes against the innocent people of this region while resting assured that the United States of America and Europe will never exert any pressure on them. The direct talks with the Zionists did not even temporarily bring a halt to the Zionists' continued aggression and criminal violence. The behavior of the Zionist regime is a glorying reminder that any retreat by Muslims will make the enemy more shamelessly demanding."

Turning to global developments in the past year, the leader referred to the collapse of the Eastern superpower and said the decline of such a vast empire possessing great military potential and equipped with nuclear weapons and all other means of influencing and dominating others was an impossible thought in the context of usual, secular and materialistically oriented calculations. But, he added, the superpower did collapse and the inaccuracy of material, unspiritual assessments was proven once again.

On Afghanistan and Central Asia, he said: "Equally amazing and exciting was the victory of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan where a Muslim nation had, for some 14 years, carried the flag of jihad with a deep faith in Islam against odds of isolation, oppression, material poverty and foreign occupation.

"The emergence of several independent Muslim states in Central Asia was another welcome development. Despite some seventy years of poisonous communist propagation and in spite of the efforts by the left-over, anti-Islamic elements who will never return to Islam, the masses of the Muslim peoples are calling for a return to Islam, take pride in their Muslimhood and strive for the realisation of Islamic rule in their countries. The establishent of at least two Muslim Republics—Albania, Bosnia-Hercegovina—in the heart of Europe has already sent jitters among European Governments."

The message also referred to the triumph of Islamic groups in the Algerian elections and said it was a cause of hope and pride for Muslims everywhere "as it fully demonstrated the depth of Islamic faith in the battle-hardened, veteran Muslim people of Algeria."

"The significance of this Islamic victory is clearly evidenced by the equal anxiety and restlessness of anti-Islam powers and the regional reactionaries which made them stage a coup d'etat to suppress the Islamic movement. They have restrained and chained the movement for the moment but any clear-sighted observer may testify the present state of affairs shall not continue for long."

On hajj pilgrimage and its benefits, the message said:

"Pilgrimage is undoubtedly a gift, a bounty, a favor granted to all generations of Muslims by the almighty God and that this divine favor will increase through appreciation and gratefulness but that it will be taken away from Muslims as a result of ungratefulness and heedlessness...

"A proper pilgrimage will undoubtedly bring about a great inner change in each and every Muslim. It will strengthen a Muslim's belief in the oneness of God, his connection to God and his trust in the Almighty, it will destroy all idols, whether within one's self or outside him, idols that are in fact the embodiments of man's carnal desires and powers or motivations which bring humans into bondage. It will also cause a feeling of strength, self-respect, self-confidence, salvation, selflessness and sacrifice. Such are some of the spiritual changes that can turn individuals into men of God who shall know no defeat, no threat, no fear, no avarice, no allurement and corruption...

"One may dare say that only this Islamic obligation, if properly exploited as expected by the shariat, will, before long, take up the Islamic 'umma' to the pinnacle of glory and greatness that it rightly deserves.

"It should unfortunately be admitted, however, that the present form of the performance of this divine service is far distant from its absolute, desired function. Our late great imam, made some effective contributions in this respect and provided the Islamic umma with a clear picture of an Abraham-like pilgrimage, a constructuve and transforming pilgrimage creating greatness and glory which has already brought about significant blessings to the world of Islam. However the propagation of this thought and practice to all Muslim peoples requires the sincere, untiring efforts of all 'ulama' of Islam and the enlightened assistance of the statesmen of all Islamic countries. It is our earnest hope that this very duty will be duly attended to and practicsed."

Iran's Reyshahri Cited on 'Pagans' Ceremony

LD0606202192 Tehran IRNA in English 0748 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Mecca, June 6, IRNA—Head of the Iranian hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri here Friday called on Muslims to take part in "Deliverance From the Pagans" ceremony on Sunday and renew allegiance with the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

Stressing that the Iranian pilgrims will begin their hajj rituals by taking part in the ceremony, Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri urged them to maintain unity and solidarity. Many pilgrims from other countries have announced readiness to take part in the ceremony stating that antipathy towards pagans is a duty for all Muslims.

Later, in a meeting with managers of Iranian hajj caravans, he called on them to remind the pilgrims of the spiritual importance of the ceremony and recommend them to refrain from any action which will disturb peace and order. Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri noted that in light of the efforts made so far, the Saudi Government is expected to help the Iranian pilgrims to hold the ceremony in a suitable manner. He expressed hope that this year's ceremony would further strengthen unity among Muslims and display their hatred towards pagans.

Meanwhile, Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz in a press conference Thursday lauded the recent remarks made by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on cooperation of the Iranian pilgrims with the Saudi law enforcement fores during the hajj rituals. He also praised behavior of the Iranian pilgrims during the past two years and expressed hope that they will set an example for those from other countries. The prince added that his country welcomes any Muslim wishing to pay pilgrimage to Mecca. But, he stressed, any person or group disturbing peace will be decisively confronted.

In another development, a two-day international seminar on hajj was opened here Friday morning with the participation of prominent personalities from 33 countries. Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim was one of the speakers of the seminar. He referred to the crimes of the Iraqi regime against people in southern and northern part of the country and called on the world Muslims to sympathize with the oppressed Iraqi people.

Palestinian Affairs

Further Reportage on 'Arafat Convalescence

'Arafat Thanks Jordan's Husayn

JN0506175092 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, is scheduled to leave the al-Husayn Medical Center later this evening. Doctors supervising Mr. 'Arafat's treatment say he has recovered after last Monday's surgery. From al-Husayn Medical Center, Mr. 'Arafat spoke to our political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Your Excellency the President: First, we congratulate you on the success of the operation. How do you feel as you prepare to leave the al-Husayn Medical Center safe and sound?
['Arafat] First, before I describe my feelings, I have to say what is deep in my heart. I extend my thanks to my brother His Majesty King Husayn for his brotherly, noble concern and care for me during this ordeal. Also, I would like to extend my love and appreciation to the brothers of the staff of the al-Husayn Medical Center, starting with its director general, section chiefs, the doctors who conducted the operation, including my brother 'Adil al-Shuraydah, and all the doctors who participated in my treatment. The Arab nation, and not only Jordan, takes pride in these people, which is because you can buy a machine and build an edifice, but you cannot buy a human being nor build one. This is the miracle worked by Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn—building a human being.

Therefore, I extend my thanks, from the bottom of my heart, and address our brotherly people in Jordan, our people in Palestine, and tell them: God willing, we will

continue the march together, and my brother His Majesty King Husayn and I will pray, along with my brothers in Jordan, Palestine, and the Arab and Islamic nations, and all Muslims and Christians in the world, at the first of two qiblahs and the third holiest shrine, the destination of Prophet Muhammad's nocturnal journey and the cradle of Christ—peace be upon them. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth. Peace among men in whom he is well pleased. [biblical verses] And to enter your Temple as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [koranic verse]

We tell the heroes who are in al-Qasabah in Nabulus, the heroes in Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Ramallah, Hebron, Bayt Sahur, Bayt Jala, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Gaza, Khan Yunis, Rafah, every city, every village, and every camp: We have a date with dawn; we have a date with victory. All that has happened, the hardship, what has been said, the hunger, pain, martyrs, prisoners, detainees, injured—all of this is an oblation along the path of Jerusalem and the Golan and the path of the first of the two qiblahs and the third holiest shrine, the destination of Prophet Muhammad's nocturnal journey and the cradle of Christ.

[Dhiyab] Your Excellency the President, thank God for your safety and for the success of the surgery, and welcome.
['Arafat] Thank you. [end recording]

'Arafat Leaves Hospital 6 Jun

JN0606071492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpts] Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat left the hospital accompanied by King Husayn. 'Arafat came out smiling to reporters who were waiting for him at the hospital entrance.

'Arafat appeared in good health. He was dressed in a khaki uniform with his usual Arabian headdress. There was a red bruise around his right eye. Dr. Yusuf al-Qusus, medical services director, described this bruise as simple, adding that this is normal after the brain surgery 'Arafat had undergone. [passage omitted]

'Arafat was taken in a Mercedes driven by King Husayn to the al-Hashimiyah Palace where the Palestinian leader will stay throughout his 10 days of recuperation.

Doctor Details 'Arafat Condition

JN0606095892 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jun 92 p 4

[Report by Yahya As'ad]

[Excerpts] Neurologist Ashraf al-Kurdi said Yasir 'Arafat's health is good, that he needs no medication, and that he will return to normal activities after a period of convalescence, which may last for two weeks.

Dr. al-Kurdi explained: At 1400 on Sunday, 31 May, the Palestinian president telephoned me and asked me to see him. I was there within 30 minutes. After going through 'Arafat's medical history and after a clinical examination, it was decided 'Arafat should have urgent and essential checkups, especially since his excellency sustained bruises in the plane accident in April.

[As'ad] But we know that he did have checkups some time ago.
[Al-Kurdi] Although the tests that 'Arafat underwent in the countries he visited showed no injury to the neurological system, the clinical examination I conducted, and my experience of his health, made me insist that he needed an urgent test using the magnetic resonance apparatus at the King Husayn Medical Center [KHMC], which His Majesty King Husayn purchased only a few months ago.

[As'ad] But the problem was not inside the brain?
[Al-Kurdi] I stress that there was no bleeding inside the brain; the bleeding was inside the membranes that cover the brain, which caused some pressure on the brain, and symptoms appeared in the form of headaches, fatigue, and a slight weakness in the left side of the body. That is why we insisted that an examination should be conducted. His majesty was immediately informed, and he quickly came to KHMC. It was midnight.

I told President 'Arafat, in the presence of his majesty and the KHMC medical team, about this bleeding, and said that the only treatment was to perform a small operation. [passage omitted]

The blood clot was removed through four small openings on both sides of the skull, without touching the brain. The operation was completely successful.

'Arafat was then taken to the intensive care unit, and he soon began to regain consciousness after the general anesthesia. His Majesty King Husayn was the first to congratulate him on his safety. His majesty stayed in the hospital from 1000 to 1430.

'Arafat's health then began to improve rapidly, and all the symptoms about which he had complained disappeared. He was gradually allowed to sit, stand, and walk, and he performed prayers on time.

His majesty is hosting 'Arafat throughout the convalescence period, which will last for two weeks, after which 'Arafat will go about his normal activity.

[As'ad] Is he taking medicines?
[Al-Kurdi] He is not taking any sedatives or preventative medicines. He does not need any other medication.

[As'ad] Is it possible complications may develop in the foreseeable future? President 'Arafat travels a great deal. Even pilots must retire after a certain number of flying hours. Should his excellency cut down on his air travel?
[Al-Kurdi] Bush is older than 'Arafat, and he travels more than him. Travel should be no problem for 'Arafat.

[As'ad] Do those who survived the plane crash with 'Arafat need treatment?

[Al-Kurdi] His Majesty King Husayn ordered the immediate treatment of 'Arafat's companions at his own expense, which also applied to another group that accompanied 'Arafat and needed medical treatment. They have all been treated at the King Husayn Medical Center.

'Arafat Visits Saddam's Uncle

LD0606185792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Brother Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] left Al-Husayn Medical City on 5 June in the company of Jordanian Monarch King Husayn after successful brain surgery. AFP reports that President 'Arafat, wearing a khaki uniform and his traditional kufiyah, smiled at reporters gathered across from the hospital to follow up on the condition of his health. He told them: I thank God, and I thank King Husayn for the care, love, and effort he exerted during the illness that befell me.

Major General Yusuf al-Qassus, medical services director, said the red blotch around President 'Arafat's eye is a result of the operation and poses no threat. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that he will listen to his doctors' advice and will take the period of convalescence they prescribe. Maj. Gen. al-Qassus estimates that 'Arafat needs a period of 10 days of rest before he can resume normal activities. [passage omitted]

Brother Abu-Ammar visited Khayrallah Tilfah, uncle of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn who is receiving treatment at Al-Husayn Medical City, before he left the hospital.

Chairs PLO Executive Committee Meeting

JN0806115892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a meeting at the Guest Palace in Amman today, chaired by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. Discussion during the meeting focused on the peace process, the Israeli measures against the kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories, and the upcoming Israeli elections.

'Major' PLO Official Assassinated in Paris

NC0806081492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Paris, 8 Jun (MENA)—'Atif Busaysu, a major PLO cadre, was assassinated by unknown gunmen at 0100 in Paris last night. The gunmen shot him as he was leaving his car in front of the Meridien Hotel in the city's Montparnasse district. He died immediately.

French police and security personnel cordoned off the area to look for the gunmen.

The last assassination of a Palestinian official in Paris occurred 10 years ago when Fadl al-Dani, deputy PLO commissioner general in France, was killed.

Israel's Mosad Accused

NC0806095092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0926 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Tunis, 8 Jun (MENA)—Reliable Palestinian sources accused Israel's Mosad of assassinating the martyr 'Atif Busaysu, a major aide to the martyr Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad. Busaysu was working to rebuild the Palestinian national security apparatus following Abu-Iyad's assassination.

Palestinian sources reported that the martyr received a warning from the occupied territories about a month ago and another warning from an Eastern European country about one week ago that the Israeli Mosad placed his name at the top of a list of condemned people.

The sources added that the Palestinian martyr was conducting a mission connected with the Palestinian struggle in Germany when he received the latest warning that advised him to leave Germany and go back to Tunisia. This warning has now been proven true, as the assassination plan began in a European country.

On his way back to Tunisia, the martyr Busaysu passed through the French capital to meet some Palestinian personalities.

The sources said that the assassination occurred at 0100 today after the martyr had supper with one of his Parisian friends. While he was leaving his car in front of the Hotel Meridien in Montparnasse, two unknown people approached and fired seven shots at him from silencer-equipped pistols. Some of the bullets hit him in the head and he died immediately.

The martyr 'Atif Busaysu was 42 years old, strongly built, energetic, and very intelligent. He leaves three children: Dania, 7, and twins aged 2.

The PLO is expected to issue a statement about the incident in the next few hours.

PFLP-GC Issues Statement on Israeli 5 Jun Raid

JN0506190392 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1644 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] At 0825 today, Zionist warplanes raided the center affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine- General Command [PFLP-GC] which provides sustenance to families of martyrs and prisoners in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in Sidon, southern Lebanon. Enemy warplanes also raided another position.

The enemy helicopter gunships yesterday raided a social services center affiliated with the PFLP-GC in the al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre, causing material damage to the center, destroying many nearby houses, and wounding two civilians.

A military communique issued by the PFLP-GC read: In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate: At 0825 on Friday, Zionist warplanes raided a social services center affiliated with the PFLP-GC's department that provides sustenance to families of martyrs and prisoners in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. There has been no loss of human life. The losses sustained were only material. Furthermore, cracks appeared in the houses of some civilians. This is a cowardly attack mounted by the enemy after it had failed to achieve any of its objectives yesterday.

The statement added: The Zionist enemy's savagery and criminal acts—manifested in its failed raid on the al-Rashidiyah camp yesterday and its bombardment of civilian houses and social services centers, whether inside camps or in Lebanese cities and villages—which are flagrant manifestations of terrorism, show that the enemy has lost its nerve, due to the series of heroic operations conducted by the PFLP-GC, not to mention the successful operations being executed by the Lebanese Islamic and nationalist resistance. These cowardly aggressions will not deter the resolve and determination of true combatants. We will continue to pursue the course of armed struggle. We—free people and mujahidin of the Arab and Islamic nation—will continue to reject all forms of negotiations and recognition of the Zionist enemy. Furthermore, we will step up our resistance until the liberation of all Lebanese and Palestinian national soil is achieved.

The statement issued by the PFLP-GC Lebanon command added: Once again, the Zionist entity shows its aggressiveness and rancor against the Palestinian people and their peaceful camps. Yesterday evening, Zionist enemy planes raided the al-Rashidiyah camp, targeting the PFLP-GC's social services center. At 0825 today, the Zionist enemy's warplanes raided the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, targeting the cultural and sports club. They dropped their hateful missiles on densely populated areas, wounding three children, and causing cracks in some houses. These houses also sustained additional material damage.

The PFLP-GC statement read: These continuing Zionist practices against our people's camps and the villages of steadfast southern Lebanon were launched after the Zionist enemy failed to undermine the steadfastness of our combatants and that of the mujahidin of the Lebanese Islamic and nationalist resistance, who are dealing painful blows to it, even though it used its immense resources and powerful war machine to achieve this purpose.

The statement added: What we deem strange is the world's silence concerning these savage aggressions. The U.S. Administration suffers sleepless nights and is restless when it hears of a child stabbing Zionist invaders. Meanwhile, this very administration blinds itself to this enemy's aggressions on the densely populated camps and its air bombardment, using warplanes, of these camps. But it remains to be said that we are aware that this entity—which has been engaged in attacks and inhumane practices in Palestine and Lebanon—is mainly nourished by the absolute and unlimited support it receives from the U.S. Administration, which provides it with funds and arms to kill the sons of the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

The PFLP-GC statement added: On this occasion, we appeal to the Palestinian nationalist forces to reconsider their political options and to deal with this enemy using the language of iron and fire, which it is using against our people's sons. And here, we would like to affirm to the masses of our Palestinian people that these aggressions will not deter us from continuing to walk the path of armed struggle and jihad to restore our historical rights in Palestine, regardless of the immense sacrifices entailed. Furthermore, we renew the pledge that we will forge ahead until our people's objective of liberating the entire Palestinian soil is achieved.

It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

Habash Cited on U.S. 'Scheme' on Palestinians

NC0806101892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Dr. George Habash, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine secretary general, called on all Palestinian forces in and outside the PLO to confront the current U.S. plan to liquidate the Palestinian issue. He stressed the need to bet on safeguarding and promoting the intifadah.

In a statement to AL-SAFIR published today, Habash said that the scheme the U.S. Administration and Israel have drawn up clearly aims to liquidate the Palestinian issue. The PLO leadership's position about this issue—proceeding with this scheme instead of confronting it—causes real agony. He wondered if we still remember the Palestinian revolution and our martyrs or whether we have reached the conclusion that we can do nothing other than surrender to U.S. will.

Noting that the negotiations with Israel so far have failed to produce any results—not even stopping the settlement-building—Habash stated: We do not reject the negotiations but the U.S. course that the negotiations follow. He called for referring the Palestinian issue to the United Nations, where there are clear resolutions relating to the Palestinian issue and where there are other forces besides the United States and Russia, which has lost all its influence. He stressed the importance of safeguarding and promoting the intifadah to help create an Arab position to help the Palestinians reach their goals.

Fatah, Hamas Groups Agree To End Differences

JN0706192492 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Excerpt] The Palestinian groups Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah agreed to end their differences and work together in the occupied lands against the Israeli occupation. The agreement was announced in a leaflet distributed in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and signed by Hamas and Fatah, the PLO's main faction. They agreed to form a joint steering committee to unite their efforts against the occupation forces. [passage omitted]

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh on Convening Security Council

JN0406194292 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] In Amman, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, stated that the PLO is currently launching its broadest Arab and international campaign, aiming to bolster the steadfastness of our people in the occupied Arab territories. In an interview with our political affairs correspondent, he said:

[Begin 'Abd Rabbuh recording] What the Gaza Strip is witnessing today—the heroic strip that ignited the intifadah and that called for correcting the transgressions and mistakes and continuing the intifadah—the actions and violations by the gangs of settlers, supported by the occupation army, in fact necessitates the broadest Arab and international campaign. This is what we are doing now to bolster the steadfastness of our great people in the Gaza Strip and to put an end to these daily crimes that peaked with the war of starvation and siege to which our dear strip is being subjected. In fact, we are making efforts these days calling for a UN Security Council meeting to take measures concerning the siege on hundreds of thousands of citizens. We will also work within the quardripartite Arab meeting, which will be held in Amman, for adopting a position urging all Arab countries to meet and discuss these crimes that are taking another face in the form of continuous aggressions on southern Lebanon. Although it is said that all this is occurring for internal election purposes in Israel, we believe that this policy exceeds elections. It aims to continue imposing a fait accompli and to continue striking at the strongholds of the national steadfastness of the intifadah in the occupied territories and in southern Lebanon to prevent any progress in solving the issues of the region in accordance with the principles of the international legitimacy. [end recording]

Sources: Leadership Favors No Arab Parties

TA0506121892 Jerusalem AL-NADWAH in Arabic 5 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] Paris—AL-NADWAH has learned from informed Palestinian sources that—on the eve of the upcoming Knesset elections—the Palestinian leadership decided not to favor any of the Arab parties (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, Progressive List for Peace, and Arab Democratic Party) that are active in the Arab sector. This decision was adopted by an important Palestinian figure who deals with Arab-Israeli affairs.

Intifadah Official Cited on Upcoming Meeting

JN0406151092 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Jun 92 p 26

[Text] Amman—Ranking PLO officials, including PLO Executive Committee members poet Mahmud Darwish, Dr. Mahmud 'Abbas, and Jamal al-Surani, as well as Fatah Central Committee members Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, Hakam Bal'awi, and Akram Haniyah, and the Palestinian delegation's press spokeswoman, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, arrived in Amman yesterday to reassure themselves about the health of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. Palestinian sources expect the arrival of more Palestinian officials and figures for the same purpose.

'Abbas Zaki, secretary of the intifadah higher committee and a Fatah Central Committee member, held a news conference in Amman yesterday. During the conference, he denied rumors that he is assuming the responsibilities of the late Abu-Jihad [Khalil al- Wazir] regarding the occupied territories. Zaki affirmed that Abu-Jihad's position since his martyrdom in mid-April 1988 has been filled by a committee of four Fatah Central Commitee members headed by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

Zaki said that there is an ongoing dialogue between the PLO and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

He added: Yes, those in Hamas are participating in the preparations for the Palestinian national conference to be held in Jerusalem this month.

He said: We are discussing various issues with all of the national and Islamic forces in the occupied territory. These issues include ending all negative manifestations of the intifadah, such as killings and kidnappings; the fair treatment of everyone; the fair treatment of the relatives of those who have been killed, regardless of the reasons why they were killed, and without ostracizing them; the ending of killings in Israeli detention centers and prisons; and the suspension of the war of rumors and the campaigns of casting doubt and distortion.

Zaki asserted that the intifadah is the strongest and most important weapon in the region. It is a duty every Palestinian and Arab should carry out.

He declared that the PLO was dragged into the negotiations and that financial pressures were exercised upon it. The PLO has no financial support now other than what it receives from the Jordanian popular committee for bolstering the intifadah and from sisterly Libya. He noted that a number of oil states have expelled many Palestinian workers.

Zaki added: We aspire for a better Arab state of affairs and an international reality that respects human rights. Despite all difficulties, we will remain committed to the constants for which thousands have been martyred.

Zaki called for the international protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory until the occupation is removed.

Arabs Urged To Reassess Peace Talk Participation

TA0506134292 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Required Review"]

[Text] The meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states participating in the bilateral negotiations are expected to begin tomorrow in Amman with the aim of conducting a comprehensive assessment and review of the entire Arab performance during the past five rounds of bilateral negotiations and drawing up a unified Arab stance in light of the results of the assessment. This process has acquired immense importance in light of Israel's current escalation in south Lebanon and the occupied territories aimed at foiling the peace talks and scoring electoral gains for the ruling Likud Party, which continues to cling to the same positions rejected on the Arab and international levels and persists with an internationally condemned settlement policy. Thus, it is inconceivable for the Arab parties to enter into the sixth round while Israel continues to carry out measures that contravene international laws and norms. Israel should be subjected to the same punishment as Iraq and Libya. Failure to mete out punishment on Israel would mean overlooking its practices and giving it a free hand, something that threatens the entire peace process.

The Arab parties taking part in the bilateral negotiations are today required more than ever to conduct a serious assessment of their positions and their continued participation in the peace process if Israel continues with its provocative measures and if the United States and the international community continue overlooking these provocations and do not carry out any punitive measures similar to those implemented against Iraq, Libya, and Serbia.

UNESCO Role in al-Aqsa Repair Rejected

TA0406132192 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 4 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] Jerusalem—Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami, the Mufti of Jerusalem and head of the Higher Islamic Council, rejected UNESCO's involvement in repairing al-Aqsa Mosque. He stated that the mosque is Islamic and, therefore, can only be repaired and renovated with money from Muslims.

In a statement issued yesterday, al-'Alami said that "UNESCO has nothing to do with repairing or supervising al-Aqsa Mosque under any circumstances." He called on Muslims "to resist this despicable international conspiracy seeking to take al-Aqsa Mosque from the hands of Muslims." Al-'Alami praised King Husayn's donation, which will suffice for repairing al-Aqsa Mosque, and noted the entire Islamic world's appreciation for this position.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Plan To Link Asian, European Railways Adopted

LD0706115892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] An Islamic Republic of Iran plan for linking Asian railways to Europe through Iran was adopted during the second session of the transportation ministers of the member states of the UN Economic and Social Committee for Asia and Pacific, ESCAP. According to the plan, transporting goods and ties between countries along the Silk Road will be expanded by connecting the Marv-Tajan railway to Sarakhs and Mashhad.

In an interview with our correspondent today, Roads and Transport Minister Sa'idi-Kia—after his return from the Asian and Pacific states' transportation ministers' gathering in Bangkok—stated: During the session, the membership of Caucasian and Central Asian newly independent states in ESCAP was approved, and an eight-point resolution was adopted about issues regarding transportation facilities in Asia and the Pacific.

Algeria

Boudiaf Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting 3 Jun

LD0506164392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] A number of national and international economic, financial and social dossiers were studied today at a meeting held by the Council of Ministers and chaired by Mr Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council.

The head of the government submitted a report about the activities of the government since the last meeting of the Council of Ministers. This reportedly centered around the progress of the work related to the drafts amending and complementing the 1988 laws, which include the economic reform; the draft supplementary finance bill for 1992; the recent negotiations between the government and the international financial institutions, particularly the IMF and the World Bank; the current preparations for convening the National Assembly for Scientific Research during this coming July; the project of the two-lane highway connecting the east and the west [of Algeria] emphasizing its benefits for the country; the progress of the social housing program which is among the principal priorities of the government program; and determining the objective and practical criteria necessary for the public and private organizations to obtain external means of payment.

After studying these issues, the Council of Ministers approved the following:

—Joining two organizations of the World Bank: the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, whose work is to secure the necessary guarantees for the foreign investments against all forms of risks; and the International Center for Settling Disputes, which is a mediation and arbitration organization between the states and the foreign investors.

—The Algerian-French agreement to mutually encourage and protect the investments. This agreement, which is similar to the agreements contracted with the Arab Maghreb Union countries; the United States and Belgium, determines the bases and procedures of the mutual guarantees for the investments between the two countries.

—Allocating the fourth part of the government loan contracted within the context of the Algerian-Belgian protocol agreement signed on 21 December 1989.

—The model projects linked to the rationalization of the management of some structures of the public health sector.

The Council of Ministers listened to a report submitted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the Yugoslav crisis. The Council of Ministers expressed its regrets that violence has prevailed over dialogue in settling the problems suffered by the Yugoslav peoples. As it reiterated the Algerian sympathy and solidarity with the innocent victims of this crisis, the Council of Ministers addressed an urgent appeal to the Belgrade authorities to respond to the expectations of the Yugoslav peoples and the international community to put an end to the battles and to open the door for a peaceful settlement of this crisis.

The Council of Ministers decided to grant humanitarian aid to the victims of the battles in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The Council of Ministers also listened to another report submitted by the minister of foreign affairs on the situation which stemmed from the UN Security Council adopting Resolution 748; and also on the efforts made to lift the sanctions imposed on the fraternal people of Libya.

On concluding the work of the Council of Ministers, the chairman of the Higher State Council invited the government to follow a strict management of the resources and available means; to adopt the necessary measures to put an end to all forms of squandering; and to make austerity a basis of the management of the state and its organizations.

On the other hand, the chairman of the Higher State Council emphasized the need to ensure the actual and complete implementation of all the adopted resolutions.

This was all about the meeting of the Council of Ministers.

'Bloc of National Fundamentals' Established 5 Jun

LD0506224492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Excerpt] The Bloc of National Fundamentals [al-kutlah al- thawabit al-wataniyah], which consists of four parties—the Algerian Islamic Boumedienne Rally; the Arab-Islamic Rally; the Algerian Party for Justice and Progress; and the Front of the Generations of Independence—was officially announced today at a meeting [word indistinct] which took place at [word indistinct]. During that meeting the leaders of the parties discussed the question of structuring and organizational frameworks. The 12- article legal internal statute of the Bloc was endorsed. These articles relate to organization and the definition of the features of the legal relationship among the members of the Bloc. [passage omitted].

Reportage—Leaders, Groups Call for Reconciliation

Socialist Front Leader on Reconciliation

LD0406195192 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent Farida Ayari, including recorded appeal by Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front, for national reconciliation in Algeria; date and place not given]

[Text] On the eve of the 30th anniversary of our independence, it is insane that we are unable to open a dialogue to turn the page. We issued a statement yesterday calling on the authorities to commit themselves to facilitate a climate of dialogue by closing the security camps, releasing prisoners of conscience, bringing before civilian courts, with all guarantees, those prisoners who have committed offenses, commuting death sentences to prison sentences, and respecting human rights and public liberties. This is for the climate of dialogue.

Second, the authorities must open a dialogue with the opposition by committing themselves to accept alternating power and endeavor for a resumption of the electoral process. The transitional stage will be run by two institutions: a neutral government made up of politically minded, but not partisan, personalities; and, a national conference in charge of monitoring the transitional. The latter would have to be a joint body made up of equal numbers of representatives of the authorities and of representatives of political formations and representative social forces.

The participation in the National Conference in charge of Monitoring the Transitional Phase will be conditioned by the acceptance of a national contract for democracy.

Ben Bella 'Urgent Call' for Dialogue

LD0506040892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Dialogue and reconciliation is an urgent call launched these days by prominent political formations in the arena. The different political forces returned to activity recently, and the work is crystalized in the form of coalitions, and despite the differences between some leanings, the desire to maintain agreement for the sake of national unity is prominent in the parties' activity.

Former President Ahmed Ben Bella, who moves within the G7, renews his call for national reconciliation. Today in the Mira program on national radio, he insisted on his idea, and called for the opening of a national dialogue, and expanding it for all political forces, and the different parts of the civil community. This is part of what he said:

[Begin Ben Bella recording] The reconciliation idea is not that of the Seven only; those Seven called for the participation of all forces, and not only a dialogue, we are for a dialogue with the government, and for a dialogue with the parties. We are not content with dialogue with the parties only, but with all the forces. There are the mojahedin, the martyrs' sons, women's associations, laborers, and civil institutions. Brothers, we should expand and move, we must stay for a month, and move for a month; for God's sake we must economize on time, and at the same time the atmosphere will change, because the atmosphere needs changing.

The truth is that the issues could be summed up in a number of points: The first and the most essential point is national reconciliation. We would like this reconciliation to stop these gatherings and also to stop these trials. We would rather they did not take place. But at the same time, frankly, if there were acts of disturbance, we want a strong authority. We want it to be a state. We face this with severity. We are for this. But justice exists, that is, we are for the services which can perform this work. We are for stability and security. [end recording]

On the other hand, Ben Bella affirmed that President Mohamed Boudiaf has an opportunity to save the country from the crisis it knows in the different spheres, on condition that he stays away from all the parties and works toward reunification. Ben Bella also called for the formation of a national alliance government whose mission is to embody a national reconciliation and prepare for the forthcoming presidential elections.

The activity of another well-known party, Socialist Forces Front [FFS], is aimed toward the same interest:

[Unidentified correspondent] The leader of FFS, Hocine Ait Ahmed, called for the opening of a true dialogue in the country and the formation of a transitional government led by neutral men to overcome the current political crisis. Ait Ahmed appealed to the authorities to issue a historical statement on national reconciliation by encouraging dialogue, starting from the closure of security centers, and the freeing of all prisoners of conscience. Ait Ahmed renewed his earlier suggestion by making the 30th independence anniversary, 5 July, a day for the embodiment of national reconciliation.

FLN's Mehri Calls for National Dialogue

LD0606003792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] The parties' activity in the direction of national dialogue is progressing in the form of an urgent demand. The National Liberation Front [FLN] secretary general [Abdelhamid Mehri] added his voice today to the calls for a nationwide dialogue. He said at a general assembly in Batna Province that solving the current problems in the country is impossible for one side, be it the authorities or not. Abdelhamid Mehri also called for the formation of a new government which enjoys public support and is capable of negotiating with foreign operators.

Leaders Urge National Reconciliation

LD0606142392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] [Correspondent] Just days before the official announcement of the formation of the National Rally and the speech that President Mohamed Boudiaf will make to the nation, opposition voices are calling for national reconciliation. The latest one calling for opening a national dialogue to include all active and effective forces in society is former president, Ahmed Ben Bella.

To achieve this reconciliation, Ahmed Ben Bella calls for the closure of security detention centers, the release of all detainees, and a halt to trials.

His position is being shared by Mr. Ait Ahmed, the FFS [Socialist Forces Front] leader, who days ago issued a statement in which he appealed to the Higher State Council to issue a historic declaration incarnating national interests. He proposed that the thirtieth anniversary of independence, which falls next July 5, as a date for this reconciliation.

However, the term national reconciliation is viewed differently by a number of political forces. Among the political forces that should take part in this operation, let us now listen to Mr. Ait Ahmed, who explains to us the meaning of national reconciliation, as he advocates:

[Begin Ahmed recording] On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of independence, we have a sacred duty to achieve historic reconciliation. We view this reconciliation, not as a festival, or as you put it, a mere exchange kisses, a useless and emotional festival; but God willing, we will be able to help our country embark on a new phase. Therefore, we call on the government and the new authorities to announce some amnesty measures as we indicated and explained in our statement.

Second, we call on the government to open a national dialogue with all groups representing political and social forces; and also the formation of an interim government. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Mr. Ait Ahmed was asked about the guarantees that should be provided so that any measure taken by the authorities should not be perceived as a sign of weakness and consequently cause the same situation in the past. In this connection, Mr. Ait Ahmed said:

[Begin recording] [Ahmed] Listen, we insist that there should be no reconciliation with terrorists, there should be no dialogue with terrorists. We must rid our country of these violent practices. However, if we want to find a suitable atmosphere for the historic reconciliation, we believe that there is nothing historic other than the Algerian people and Algerian men. What is important is that on this occasion we should give the Algerian people the chance to say their words; we should clarify future vision. Among the issues that must be clarified is the definition on embarking on the electoral march.

[Correspondent] Mr Ait Ahmed. May I ask this last question? The work of your party resulted in the adoption of reconciliation, which was labelled national and historic reconciliation. I wonder if you did carry out any moves toward other parties or even toward the authorities so that matters could have broader benefits?

[Ahmed] Listen, people say that we are keeping quiet, we are not. We are the only party that held a meeting on 1 May. On this day, I issued an appeal for this reconciliation. We have had no contact with the authorities; in any case, we remain open for all contacts. Irrespective of our principled position regarding these new authorities, we were always ready to open a real dialogue, and we remain ready for such dialogue.

As for the Socialist Vanguard, which believes talk on national reconciliation is a fairy tale, it strongly condemns the political forces that are currently trying, as it put it, to put pressure on the Higher State Council and force it to change its position. [end recording]

[Correspondent] On the other hand, the National Fundamentals Bloc met two days ago and discussed its position vis-a-vis the current development on the national arena, especially on the eve of the announcement of the setting up of the National Rally as advocated by Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf.

Mr. Mohamed Saadi, chairman of the Islamic Boumedienne Rally, reviews for our colleague Daas Rabi the outcome of the meeting of the National Fundamentals Bloc:

[Begin Saadi recording] We reached agreement regarding a legal basis and endorsed a special law on the National Fundamentals Bloc, its goals, internal relations, and relations with others. We issued a statement in this context. During the Medea meeting, we stressed the need to reject the Franco-Communist trend and the ethnic-regionalist tendency. Among other goals and results achieved during the meeting, we issued an urgent appeal to the Higher State Council for the need not to allow the so-called National Consultative Council to review or renege on the matter of Arabization. [end recording]

HAMAS Joins Call for Reconciliation

LD0706114292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] National reconciliation is a call attracting increasing support among the opposition. Only a few days before the the Higher State Council [HSC] chairman is due to address the nation to explain the objectives of the National Rally idea, which he himself had called for, the pillars of this urgent call, Abdelhamid Mehri, Ahmed Ben Bella, and Ait Ahmed, have been joined by the voice of the Movement of Islamic Society [HAMAS].

The position has been expressed by the movement's deputy chairman who said that the release of detainees is evidence of Mr. Boudiaf's desire to embody national reconcilation. The HAMAS official said that Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah had been received last 11 May by the HSC chairman at a meeting, where discussion centered on the need to open dialogue with political sensitivity and to respect the democratic process, political pluralism, and the inevitability of national reconciliation with the participation of all, without any exclusion, in order to pull out of the current crisis.

HAMAS's deputy chairman said that the HSC chairman showed understanding for the situation and promised to do his utmost for national reconcilation.

FIS 'Extremist Wing' Reorganizing in France

LD0506023592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], the party which was officially disbanded, is reorganizing itself in France. The establishment of its grassroots is taking place in the suburbs of Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Roubaix.

The report was disclosed today by the French newspaper VSD, which mentioned a number of personalities whom it described as Afghans belonging to the group Hijrah wa al-Takfir, the FIS' extremist wing. The paper said that they entered France illegally.

According to the same paper, the members of this group are carrying out their activity under the cover of the Algerian Brotherhood Association in France which distributes leaflets known as Friday's Pulpit inside Algerian circles in France.

Regarding the external finances of this party, the paper said that since it lost its financing sources from Saudi Arabia, it has been trying to reorganize itself with concrete finances through big Algerian traders who live in France, Spain and Italy.

The paper is pointing fingers of accusation to the Americans, as it discovered that they are greatly interested in polarizing this movement. It pointed out the increasing number of U.S. employees who are closely following FIS activity in Europe.

'Perpetrator' of Blida Van Attack in Custody

LD0606003192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] On the strength of the National Gendarmerie Command, APS reported that one of the four persons who carried out an attack on a posts and communications van in Blida in April has been arrested by the security forces in Ouled Yyech in Blida.

The perpetrator of the operation was referred to investigation and put in prison. The identities of the persons who conspired with him have been identified and an intensive search for them is currently under way.

Egypt

'Electoral Motives' Seen in Israeli Actions

NC0506112192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Egypt condemned Israel's using force against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the occupied territories and against southern Lebanon. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said using force violates the provisions of the fourth Geneva convention about occupied lands. He demanded an immediate halt to these violations and aggression so that a favorable atmosphere can be created for peace.

Musa called on Israel to avoid involving electoral motives in dealing with the occupied territories and to avoid victimizing the Palestinian people for the sake of electoral oneupmanship.

Israeli Committee Proposal Rejected

JN0606073192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo said Egypt rejected an Israeli proposal to form a joint political committee between the two countries to follow up the results of the peace talks between Israel and the Arab states and agree on factors to iron out the emerging differences in these talks. But in its answer to the Israeli proposal, Cairo said the aim of this committee will be realized if Israel becomes convinced of the need to implement UN Security Resolutions 242 and 338 and recognize legitimate Arab rights. Egypt asked Israel to adhere to the spirit of peace and stop the current attacks on Lebanon and the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Jerusalem 'Indivisible Part' of Territories

NC0606093592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak stated that the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and of the Palestinians [as heard] in the West Bank and Gaza can neither establish a right to the land nor gain legitimacy. He said: What goes for the occupied Palestinian territories goes equally for Arab Jerusalem, which constitutes an indivisible part of these occupied territories. He remarked that international charters and resolutions irrefutably established that the Israeli presence in these territories is illegal and that it is impermissible to seize these lands in the first place.

This came in the message that President Mubarak addressed to a gathering today at Arab League Headquarters to mark the 25th anniversary of the occupation of Jerusalem. The message was read by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Dailies Denounce Israeli Attacks on South Lebanon

NC0606150092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—In their Saturday editions, both AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH denounce the repeated Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and the Palestinian camps there. Israel's blatant defiance of

international legitimacy, and its provocation of the Arab parties taking part in the peace negotiations.

Both papers say that by launching these attacks, Israel wants to spark a new war in Lebanon as part of an integrated and deliberate plan to provoke the Arab parties and, accordingly, damage the peace negotiations.

AL-AHRAM notes that between the negotiations, Israel tends to unmask its ugly face by indulging in hooliganism. When the negotiations resume, however, it curbs its extremist words and deeds and resorts to provocations within the negotiations room until the sessions culminate in disappointment due to Israel's delaying tactics.

The paper says that Israel does this to force the Arab parties to make further concessions and lose hope of making any gains regarding the liberation of land.

AL-AHRAM concludes by saying that giving Israel free rein will not only bring the negotiations to a standstill but will probably trigger an explosive regional situation, which would lead the region further from peace and reconciliation.

Under the headline "The Israeli Aggression and the Puzzling Question", AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that every international call made to Israel to halt its aggression against south Lebanon and the Palestinians in the occupied territories is met with increased Israeli stubbornness and an escalation of air raids in a blatant provocation of the legitimate Lebanese Government and an irresponsible defiance of peace efforts.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that by raiding the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian camp near Sidon on the 25th anniversary of the 5 June [1967] aggression, Israel wants to remind the world that it still believes that "security can only be established by expansion and by annexing the lands of others," although the victorious Ramadan war totally refuted this theory.

The paper appeals to the United States to take a clear-cut stand on Israel's barefaced aggression against south Lebanon, adding that the entire world is waiting for it to do so.

The paper concludes by noting that international resolutions call on Israel to immediately withdraw from south Lebanon and that there is an ongoing peace process in the Middle East, to which both Israel and Lebanon are parties. AL-JUMHURIYAH asks: Why has Israel not responded to the demands of international legitimacy? Who can convince Israel that there is no escape from accepting the land-for- peace formula?

Mubarak To Embark on Tour of Gulf, Morocco

JN0506160892 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 5 (GNA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is to start an Arab tour after the Corban Bairam to include the Arab Gulf states, and Morocco. The tour fell within the frame of an agreement reached in Damascus last Wednesday [3 Jun] between Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, news reports said here today.

"AL-ITTIHAD" newspaper quoted Egyptian reliable sources as saying the agreement reached in Damascus between Mubarak and al-Asad stipulated that both Egypt and Syria lead efforts for rectifying Arab situation, especially as the Arab Gulf states showed understanding for improving the Arab situation during the Gulf tour of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad last March.

Egyptian Envoy Cited on Relations With Iran

PM0406155692 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 4 Jun 92 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Chief of Egyptian Mission in Tehran Tells SAWT AL-KUWAYT: Relations With Iran Strong and Historical"]

[Text] Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Ahmad Namiq, chief of the Egyptian interests office in Tehran, described relations between the Iranian and Egyptian people as strong and based on historical foundations and abundant common cultural ties. In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT, he stated that he has clear instructions to develop bilateral relations and to eliminate any technical obstacles to developing these relations.

Regarding setting a date for raising the level of diplomatic representation between Cairo and Tehran, Namiq said that he currently exercising the powers of an ambassador and minister plenipotentiary. He added that the interests office in Tehran or Cairo operates as an embassy and has all the features of an embassy. In addition, the recent meeting in Bali between the Iranian and Egyptian foreign ministers on the sidelines of the nonaligned states meeting is a step forward toward proceeding with developing relations between both friendly and fraternal countries.

About the Damascus Declaration and the Iranian position about security in the Gulf, Namiq said that Egypt appreciates Iran's participation in Gulf security arrangements. "That issue concerns primarily the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, since they are the only ones responsible for concluding suitable agreements with the parties seeking to maintain security in the Gulf." He added that what happened in Damascus between the GCC and both Egypt and Syria was nothing more than a (declaration) below the level of a security treaty or agreement.

Regarding the present Egyptian position about the Iraqi regime in the light of reports that Cairo wishes Iraq to return to the Arab fold, the Egyptian diplomat denied that Egypt could have been working to return the Iraqi regime to the forefront of the official Arab system. He stressed that "Cairo is not prepared to deal with the Iraqi regime while Saddam Husayn is in power."

Iran's 'Vague' Position on Gulf Security Cited

NC0506144792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR writes that Iran's position about security in the Gulf region and the position it expects of certain Arab countries raise several questions that need clear and definite answers to help define the policy of major Islamic states at such difficult times for the Muslim nation.

In an editorial today, Friday, AL-AKHBAR adds that the 1980's—throughout which the Iranian authorities were accused of engineering plans to export Khomeyni's revolution to various Islamic countries, particularly those in the Arab world—are now past and we were optimistic when the recent Iranian elections scored a victory for Rafsanjani's moderates, who are turning toward opening a new chapter with world states. The paper adds that the Iranian position about Gulf security remains vague, particularly on the Arab role, Iran's objection to the Damascus Declaration signed by Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf states, and its insistence that Gulf security should be the exclusive responsibility of Iran and the Gulf states, as though they are not Arab and have no right to seek the help of other Arab states that are bound by an Arab joint defense pact.

The paper hopes the Iranian leaders will reconsider and review their relations with Arab states in light of the dangers which seem to be encompassing the Arab and Muslim world these days.

Police Arrest 50 Muslim Brotherhood Members

NC0706094792 Cairo MENA in English 0630 GMT 7 Jun 92

[From the Press Review; name of newspaper not given]

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—Police in al-Sharqiyah Governorate arrested 50 members of the illegal religious organization of Muslim Brotherhood. Leaflets calling for agitation were seized in their hideouts.

[Paris AFP in English at 0900 GMT on 7 June adds the following: Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa told AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper that police seized political tracts and Roneo machines as they arrested the Muslim Brotherhood members on Saturday.

["The antigovernment tracts were to have been distributed during prayers for a Muslim feast next Thursday, the paper said, citing security sources. Those arrested were to face legal charges."]

Ikhwan Confirms Arrests

LD0706174392 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 7 Jun 92

[All names as received]

[Text] Athens, June 7, IRNA—An Ikhwan Muslim Brotherhood leader in Egypt has confirmed the arrest of 50 of its members Saturday on suspicion of illegal activties. "The fifty were members of Ikhwan. We regret their arrest and we are waiting to see what charges the government will bring against them," Ikhwan spokesman Mamoun al-Hudaibi told the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) by phone from Cairo Sunday. "We still do not know the charges against them," Hudaibi added.

A journalist, close to the Ikhwan, told IRNA from Cairo that 50 brotherhood members were arrested Saturday in the town of al-Zaqaziq, 60 km north of Cairo, while they were holding a meeting in the home of an engineer. Two former members of parliament are among those detained. One of them is Abdurrahman al-Arsad.

Egypt's Interior Ministry said it had confiscated illegal leaflets allegedly aimed at creating tension between Muslims and Christians from the detainees. Islamic circles in Egypt believe that the arrest was an effort by the Husni Mubarak regime to frigthen the Muslim brotherhood, which although banned, is gaining in popularity.

Last February, security authorities arrested three managers of the Sansabil computer company, reportedly Ikhwan members, in Cairo. The latest clampdown against Islamists follows a series of fierce clashes between security forces and members of Islamic groups in the Asyut Province in which a number of people were killed and hundreds arrested. It has become routine in Egypt to arrest members of Islamic groups on flimsy charges of "trying to overthrow the government." 13 persons were killed in Christian-Muslim clashes in a village in Asyut in May.

Ten Members Released

NC0806065992 Paris AFP in English 0645 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, June 8 (AFP) - Authorities on Sunday freed 10 members of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group who were among 50 arrested in the northern Nile Delta governorate of al-Sharqiyah, the official daily AL-AHRAM reported Monday.

Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa told another newspaper, AL-JUMHURIYAH, that police seized antigovernment political tracts and printing machines when they arrested the 50 Muslim fundamentalists on Saturday.

The tracts were to have been distributed during prayers for a Muslim feast next Thursday, the paper said, citing security sources.

In February, authorities accused the Brotherhood of plotting to destabilize the government.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which is outlawed in Egypt but tolerated by authorities, denied the charged.

Opposition Newspaper 'Mercenaries' Denounced

NC0506160092 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 1 Jun 92 p 1

[Article by Misr al-Fatah Party leader 'Abdallah Rushdi: "Democracy and Nationalism"]

[Text] Bragging about democracy does not mean infringing nationalism and our loyalty to the land we live in and to which we belong, which I say to the opposition parties that have forgotten nationalism for the sake of their personal ambitions. When patriots confront these renegades, they take cover behind the word democracy. These mercenaries' actions have reached the point where they are common talk in the countries to which they have sold themselves and their pens.

A friend told me: I heard this when I joined the Egyptian delegation to the first Arab symposium in Tripoli in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. This happened when a certain Egyptian opposition newspaper was the only Egyptian publication to be allowed into Libya. It was published in Cairo, but appeared as if it was published in Tripoli. A Libyan official said some people badly exploit Egyptian democracy, using it as a profitable trade that brings them millions.

The Libyan official asked my friend: Would a newspaper in Iraq, or here in Tripoli, in Khartoum, or Tehran dare to do what some opposition papers do in Cairo? Can a newspaper in these countries advocate an Egyptian cause and prominently publish President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's picture on their front pages, as some of your opposition papers do? I believe that our newspapers you see here, or the Iraqi and Sudanese newspapers published here, will publish a report about Egypt only diffidently, on the inside pages—if it is allowed to be published at all.

My friend's interlocutor continued: Opposition newspapers outside Egypt exercise their opposition for the public good and do not oppose just for the sake of it, because politics involves thought, manners, respect for other views, and dialogue, rising above lowliness and abusive language, which has infiltrated some Egyptian opposition newspapers. We see Egypt as a pioneer and a model in everything, except in the methods of some opposition parties formed to publish newspapers meant only to make money, to use frenzied talk, and to insult honorable people for the sake of illicit wealth. What vile parties, what vile press.

Misr al-Fatah Leader on Predecessor' Dismissal

NC0506154692 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 1 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by MISR AL-FATAH's political editor]

[Text] Major General 'Abdallah Rushdi, the new leader of the Misr al-Fatah Party, affirmed that 'Ali al-Din Salih was not deposed by the Political Parties Committee but by members of the party's general congress on 8 May 1992.

He added: All the party's members decided at a historic meeting to withdraw confidence from 'Ali al-Din Salih, electing me leader to correct the party's course so that it might participate effectively in the success of development projects.

Ahmad 'Izz al-Din Sulayman, the party's first deputy leader, issued a statement saying that the recent meeting held by Mustafa Kamil Murad [Liberal Party leader] to support 'Ali al-Din Salih was illegal because it interfered with the wishes of the Misr al- Fatah Party's masses, who refused to insult or harm the reputations of honorable people or to sell the party to the highest bidder.

He added that Mustafa Kamil Murad and his companions profess love for democracy, but do not respect the wishes of the Misr al-Fatah Party's masses. He continued, saying any statements issued by Murad's meeting do not express any public sentiment, but only reflect the views of individuals blinded by the leading roles they have and to which they cling while disregarding the views of the masses who entrusted them with responsibility.

Sulayman added that Mustafa Kamil Murad and his clique support corruption and conspire against the people's interests. He explained that the people have rejected distortion and bad leaders and decided to entrust the leadership to the best and the most honest, who operate far from those who steal political action and who have harmed Egypt and its people while pretending to do party work.

Central Bank Plan To Keep BCC Afloat Cited

NC0506144192 Cairo MENA in English 0700 GMT 5 Jun 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR led its front page news with a report on the Central Bank of Egypt's [CBE] plan to keep the Bank of Credit and Commerce [BCC] afloat and highlighted that the bank will pay out 25 percent of balances due to BCC depositors.

The newspaper reported that CBE Governor Dr. Salah Hamid met the chairmen of the boards of the four public sector banks—Banque Misr, National Bank of Egypt, Bank of Alexandria, and Banque du Caire—and Muhammad 'Ali al-Barbari, sub-governor of the CBE, discussing with them the final plan for keeping the BCC afloat. The newspaper said it learned that the plan allows for an interest-free deposit of 1,000 million [Egyptian] pounds to be lodged with the BCC to enable it to resume its business and regain client confidence. The four public sector banks will enter the BCC as new partners.

The CBE will set out regulations for withdrawals by depositors from their BCC funds and for organizing the bank's relations with depositors.

The plan provides for changing the BCC name.

Libya

Pan Am Bombing Linked To Drug Smuggling Ring

LD0506210392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1910 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Jun (JANA)—Syrian businessman Mundhir al- Kassar confirmed that the blowing up of the Pan Am plane in 1988 was (?done) by a group engaged in drug smuggling. Al-Kassar also (?corroborated) the story in the American TIME magazine about the presence of American intelligence men on board that plane.

Al-Kassar revealed in a statement he gave recently in Madrid that the party that blew up the Pan Am plane was the same party that carried out the operation against the Zionist embassy in Buenos Aires (?and that) it was not Libya.

Reports of Telephone Link to Israel Denied

LD0606124192 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli 6 Jun (JANA)—The General People's Committee for Communications and Transportation denied news reports, published by a number of foreign organizations, that a telephone link will soon be established between the Jamahiriyah and occupied Palestine. Sources at the Committee's Secretariat pointed out, furthermore, that telephone links will be cut off with any country if the latter is confirmed to have fed telephone conversations between Libya and the occupied Arab territories.

NATO Resolution 748 Draws 'Angry' Demonstration

LD0606164692 Tripoli JANA in English 0825 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Ghadamis, al-Sayf [June] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The popular masses at the municipal branch of Ghadamis yesterday went out in an angry demonstration condemning the NATO Resolution 748 banning the Libyan Muslim people from performing the duty of pilgrimage and [words indistinct]. The demonstrators carried banners reaffirming their opposition to [word indistinct] hegemony and that the popular masses will remain steadfast in the face of imperialist challenges until victory defeating imperialist crusaders' hatred. In a statement after the angry demonstration, the participants stressed that the invalid NATO Resolution 748 and its coercive measures against the great Jamahiriyah were in fact directed against the Arab and Muslim nations. The participants urged Muslims for the need to take action [words indistinct] that the performance of pilgrimage will be fulfilled without any permission from the crusaders and that the provocative measures by the crusaders were contemptous to Muslims' dignity and violation of religious feelings and ritualsm.

Mojaddedi Meets With Egyptian Delegation

LD0806093392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, today met with a delegation from the Arab Republic of Egypt, led by Faruq Hawari, minister plenipotentiary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting was held at the Gol Khana Palace of the State Presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Faruq Hawari conveyed the congratulations of the president, government and the people of Egypt on the occiasion of the victory of the jihad and the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan, and pledged cooperation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and in providing facilities for the training of Afghan cadres in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Esteemed Prof. Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi expressed gratitude for the cooperation and support given by the people and state of Egypt during the period of jihad and for the pledge made toward the reconstruction of Afghanistan and training the younger generation.

Twelfth Anniversary of U.S Withdrawal Viewed

LD0506150592 Tripoli JANA in English 1641 GMT 4 Jun 92

[quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Al Sayf [June] 4, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The 'AL-MUWAZZAF' newspaper here in Tripoli today focused its' editorial on the talk about the twelfth anniversary of the removal of the American bases from Libyan Arab territory.

The newspaper said at next week the masses of the Libyan people, along with the masses of the nation, would be celebrating the anniversary of their victory against the forces of repression, evil and aggression, the anniversary of the removal of the colonial bases from the pure soil. Those forces, the newspaper said, which had occupied a part of this pure land, encroaching upon it, exploiting its' resources, and infringing upon its' freedom through this colonialists' military, aggressive presence, its' interference in political affairs and its' control over the Libyan economy.

The newspaper, which is published by the administrative trades unions, added "the American military bases, the American embassy, and the American companies in this warm natured, true country were colonialist outposts, and areas of interference and overall control. They were

the real indicator of the firmness of the will of the Libyan people. Thus, this trustworthy country had become a Western settlement.

For this reason, the editorial said, when the revolution broke out, one of its' most urgent and critical goals was to ensure that this country rids itself of these bases and the areas of interference and overall control.

Thus, the first step was to get rid of the military bases, which is the anniversary we are celebrating in the coming week. After the removal of the bases, the next revolutionary victories and gains were achieved, namely ending interference in Libya's internal affairs and its' overall economic and political control. Thus, Libya became, after centuries, an independent and free country and the people now had a message of freedom to impart to the world.

The newspaper said "the truth which is impossible to ignore was that without the onset of the great revolution and a principled, brave and true leadership of believers at its' head, then we would not have been able to achieve this great and wide scale victory. This compels us today, from a standpoint of fulfillment and acknowledgement, to give due recognition to these and their brothers who gave their souls, faced a very difficult situation, succeeded in overcoming this difficult situation and and secured the safety of the people. Indeed, we should be full of gratitude and express our thanks, appreciation and love to those who brought about the removal of the bases.

Friday Prayers Urge Citizens To Boycott Hajj

LD0606170992 Tripoli JANA in English 0809 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In today's Friday prayers the preachers of the mosques throughout the great Jamahiriyah and a number of Islamic countries said that the hajj this year is a sacrilege and it is unjust to carry out this duty especially because permission is to be given by a committee of the U.N. headed by a crusader.

The preachers giving the Friday prayers expressed their opposition [words indistinct] that the holy places will be subjected to political decisions which will prevent thousands of Libyan Muslims and other Muslims living in the great Jamahiriyah to conduct [words indistinct] them from reaching Mecca and the other holy places.

The preacher said that [words indistinct] which is preventing Libyan Muslims from conducting the [words indstinct] is creating a deep wound in the dignity of every Muslim throughout the world and that it is a blatant violation of Islamic values and religious feelings.

All the preachers agreed that the Libyan Muslims who see the holy Koran as their rightful [words indistinct] adhered to its dictates will continue to carry out [word indistinct] religious duties and will give their utmost attention to the [words indistinct] the house of God [word indistinct] they said that Islam forbids obtaining permission to go to the hajj from those who are against Islamic values, those who insult the prophetic message and who support such Satanists such as Salman Rushdie who has insulted Islam and dealt a blow to the house of the prophet. They said that Islam forbids obtaining permission form anybody who conspires against Muslims and kills them in Lebanon, Palestine, Afghanistan and in Libya in 1986.

These [word indistinct] also expressed their surprise at the stance adopted by the Islamic countries which follow [word indistinct] crusader orders and cooperate with it in carrying out the sacrileges against Islam and the Muslims. The preachers wondered how Muslims could accept to be subjugated in carrying out their religious duties as a result of a resolution made by the enemy and how they act as if they hate other Muslims and try to adhere to [words indistinct] the implications.

The preachers of the [word indistinct] throughout the great Jamahiriyah and a number of Islamic countries said that the Western crusaders have began to blatantly fight Islam and the Muslims and what exposed them most is this attempt made against the Muslims religious feelings. They said that these crusaders were hoping to deal a blow to Islam, the Muslims and to humiliate them.

The preachers called on all Muslims to stand firmly and strongly and they should say no to the NATO alliance resolutions, no to the conspiracies of the crusader enemy against the Libyan Muslim. The preachers wondered why these crusaders were doing all they could to [words indistinct] how one could forgive them when they consider the jihad for God as terrorism.

They said that this crusaders will one day consider the hajj to be the great Islamic gathering and the great congress on Mount 'Arafat. Indeed in Mecca it is a danger to them thus they are trying [words indistinct].

However, these Muslims have declared to the enemies of the Arabs and Islam that they will not surrender.

The preachers added that they would not accept at all [words indistinct] administration or the [word indistinct] of any political decree which prevents them from conducting the hajj. They called for the need for the holy places to be open to each one who wishes to go on the hajj or the Amra and that the religious administration duty should be to [word indistinct] the passage of those [words indistinct].

The preachers said that they call on all those who contribute to the hajj for this year to contribute instead to the jihad trust in order to confront the [word indistinct] disbelievers and to fund the Muslim [word indistinct] strugglers who are fighting for freedom and to free the holy places such as it said in the Koran when it calls upon Muslims to conduct the jihad with available means and that this would bring them good will.

Kuwait

Statement on U.S. War in Gulf War Disavowed

Remarks Were 'Personal Opinion'

LD0806085792 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in English 1830 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Replying to a question over the viewpoint expressed by the National Council speaker, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Masa'id, during an interview with a newspaper about the United States' role in the liberation of Kuwait, the minister of finance and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan, said what was published in this respect was purely a personal opinion, adding that this fact was even asserted by Mr. al-Masa'id himself. Mr. al- Ridan said we certainly are fully aware, both on the popular and official levels, of the reality of the basic role played by the United States, along with other friendly and sisterly states, in the liberation of Kuwait from the shackles of the treacherous Iraqi aggression and subsequently helping it recover its freedom and regaining its sovereignty. Their role and the support extended by the United States to Kuwait's right at every platform will always remain a source for Kuwait's gratitude and pride at every level.

The acting minister of state for cabinet affairs said the ambassador of the United States to Kuwait also enjoys our esteem and appreciation for his contribution to the boosting of Kuwaiti-American relations, which are progressing at a positive pace and heading for greater cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Further on al-Masa'id Remarks

NC0706192992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Jun (MENA)—Nasir al-Ridan, acting Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, has stated that Kuwaiti National Council Chairman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Masa'id's remarks, published in the London-based weekly AL-MAJALLAH, represent only his personal opinion and not that of the Kuwaiti Government.

In a statement today, al-Ridan said that the Kuwaiti Government and people appreciate the important role played by the United States, along with the fraternal and friendly states, in liberating Kuwait. Al-Ridan praised efforts by the U.S. ambassador in Kuwait to strengthen the good relations between the two countries.

In his interview with AL-MAJALLAH, al-Masa'id played down the U.S. role in liberating Kuwait. He said: "The United States sought to protect its own interests, not to do any favors for Kuwait. The United States did not return our country to us. We would not have been liberated were it not for the wisdom of our government and the help of Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt, and Syria. The United States came because of its own interests."

Al-Masa'id also attacked the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, accusing him of interfering in Kuwait's domestic affairs and of encouraging the opposition.

KUNA Views Djerejian Statement to AL-QABAS

LD0706101492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Jun (KUNA)—A senior U.S. official in a press statement published here today said that the Iraqi people were striving for new leadership who would end their crushing crises and desire to live in peace with Iraq's neighbors. The official—who is Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian—expressed, in his statement to the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS, his belief that the current Iraqi regime has become more fragile and was now preoccupied with its effort to continue and survive.

Djerejian, who is a specialist on Near East and South Asian affairs, reaffirmed that the security and stability of the Persian Gulf region was the second main aspect of U.S. policy in the Middle East, as this proceeds from the vital importance of the Gulf as far as American interests and world economic security were concerned.

He stressed the importance of self-defense for each country and the significance of collective defense arrangements for the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. He said his country would strongly cooperate in order to meet legitimate defense requests by these states through arms sales. He added, however, that the United States did not intend to deploy land forces on a permanent basis in any place within the region.

Regarding Iran and the possibility of Iran's participation in regional security, the U.S. assistant secretary of state said that Iran knew what it had to do in order to be accepted by the international community.

In his references to the Middle East peace negotiations, Djerejian expressed his belief that these negotiations would not bring about final or unilateral solutions, but that they basically depend on bridging the gap of differences through reaching compromise. He pointed out that disputes could not at any rate be solved completely in view of the fact that there were fundamental differences in the positions of the parties concerned.

Saudi Arabia

Report on Threats to Oil Companies 'Baseless'

LD0606004792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2253 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Jeddah, 5 June (SPA)—A responsible source denied, in a statement to SPA, any truth in a report carried by AFP today quoting a report in the NEW YORK TIMES Friday [5 June] that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom had threatened some companies engaged in oil prospecting operations in the areas which are under

dispute between the Kingdom and Yemen, that those companies might be exposed to retaliatory measures which could include military operations if they did not heed the warning, and so on and so forth of such allegations.

The source said: The report carried by AFP in this connection is not true and is totally baseless.

Fund For 'Brothers' in Bosnia-Hercegovina Created

LD0506200392 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Jeddah 5 Jun (SPA)—Saudi Arabia announces the continuation of its support and backing for the Muslims in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and reiterates its condemnation and denunciation of what our Muslim brothers there are being subjected to.

This was announced to SPA today by a responsible source who said: "In implementation of the instructions and directives of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has specified that Saudi Arabia should continue its Islamic and international efforts and its material and moral support to our Muslim brothers who are today facing the most severe conditions as a result of the criminal brutal aggressions committed by the extremist Serbs against them. In continuation of what Saudi Arabia has initiated since its recognition on 14.10.1412 AH, corresponding to 17 April 1992 AD, of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina of sending urgent rescue supplies to the Muslims in the aforementioned republic, the king has ordered the establishment of an organization, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh region, to collect emergency donations for our brother victims in Bosnia-Hercegovina."

The source said that the government of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, though it appreciates the UN Security Council Resolution 753 containing the cease-fire provisions and calling for an end to the hostilities immediately in the republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and for greater efforts to arrive at a political solution which takes into account the principle of the inadmissibility of changing the border by the force of arms, and not forgetting the statements which were issued by the Islamic Conference Organization on 14 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1412 AH corresponding to 16 May 1992 and the Islamic World League on 15 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1412 AH corresponding to 17 May 1992, and while the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia appreciates the efforts of the European community and the CSCE in regard to the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, it once again urges the international community and the governments of Islamic states to appreciate the need to quickly put an end to the blatant attacks and violations that are still being waged against the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The Kingdom also demands that the authorities in Belgrade and the aggressor forces of the Serbian extremists abide immediately by the provisions of UN Resolution 754.

'Humiliating' Saudi Treatment of Hajjis Decried

JN0706183992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jun (INA)—Iraqi pilgrims who were not permitted by the Saudi authorities to continue their journey to perform the pilgrimage have exposed the unethical practices of the Saudi security men.

'Abd-al-Amir Jassar Husayn 'Ulaywi, agent of a contractor company engaged in transporting pilgrims to the holy shrines, revealed to INA various aspects of the practices employed by the Saudi security men, practices which have nothing to do with Islam or the code of ethics that should mark the conduct of Muslims. He said: When we reached the Saudi area of 'Ar'ar at night, Fahd's henchmen ordered all of the pilgrims out of the vehicles and seized their passports. They were kept waiting from 0300 until 1800 that day.

'Ulaywi added: We inquired about the reasons for the delay in processing our passports. The Saudi security men slandered us, using immoral language. They took my wife and me to a border police station, where I saw a number of Iraqi pilgrims who had been denied entry into Saudi Arabia even though they had not been there before.

'Ulaywi noted that the Iraqi pilgrims amazed the Saudi security men when they preferred to return home rather than listen to humiliating words. This, he contended, is because they were going to visit the tomb of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and mercy be upon him, and not to see Fahd, who is of no value whatsoever to Iraqis.

'Ulaywi said: I told the Saudi security men that the Iraqi pilgrims were aware of what was going on in their sick minds. Iraqis cannot bring themselves to accept humiliation, I told them. They will return home rather than suffer humiliating treatment, I reminded them.

Direct Phone Links With 'Zionist Entity' Denied

JN0506184792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jun (INA)—Iraq has announced that it has no direct phone links with the Zionist entity and that international switchboards have been asked not to pass traffic from the Zionist entity.

This came in a statement by Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini. He was reacting to an announcement by the Zionist minister of communications over Israel Radio on 3 June about setting up direct phone links with a number of Arab countries, including Iraq.

The Zionist entity has failed to honor international agreements concluded in accordance with recommendations of the International Telecommunication Union defining the means of communication. The Zionist entity has used an illegal means by bribing certain switchboard operators at international switchboards to pass such calls without the knowledge of their superiors, al-Ma'ini addded.

Such actions are in character with the piracy and fraud that have typified the Zionist entity since its inception when it conquered Palestine and dispossessed its people of their rights.

This alone should prove to the world that this entity has no respect for law or international agreements. By resorting to such tactics, Israel is out to impress others with a technological edge over the Arab states, the minister noted.

Memo to UN Protests U.S. Airspace 'Violations'

JN0706115592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1101 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] New York, 7 Jun (INA)—Iraq has lodged a protest with the United Nations against the continued violation of its airspace by U.S. warplanes for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

A memorandum addressed by Iraq to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali yesterday notes that U.S. warplanes carried out 55 air sorties during the period 28 May-3 June.

The memorandum indicates that the activity of the warplanes centered over the Mosul, Irbil, and al-'Amadiyah, Dahuk, Zakho, and Sinjar areas at different speeds and altitudes and through various formations.

Djerejian 'Admitted' Saddam 'Most Drastic Threat'

JN0706083492 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Jun 92 p 1

["Special monitoring"]

[Text] In a lecture at an international center in Washington cited by Voice of America, Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs and former U.S. ambassador in Damascus, has said that the Arab Gulf region is a vital and necessary region for U.S. interests and world economic security.

Djerejian admitted that Saddam Husayn has been the most drastic threat to U.S. interests in the Gulf region.

Djerejian pointed out that during his recent visit to the Gulf region he affirmed to heads of state there that the United States will cooperate with them to meet their defense needs and will be committed to safeguarding their security.

He added that the U.S. security arrangements with these states are aimed at warding off the dangers posed to their interests and to prepare for any direct U.S. military action in the future.

It is noteworthy that three Gulf regimes have signed military protection agreements with the United States, in addition to the military pacts that link the Saudi regime with the United States and which had been signed before the Gulf events, including the agreements on U.S. military bases in al-Dammam, Dhahran, and other cities.

PLO's Milhim Terms Blockade 'Unforgivable Crime'

JN0606133392 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, June 6, INA—Mr Muhammad Milhim, member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) described the continuation of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq as an unforgivable crime against 18 million people.

In a statement to AL-'IRAQ newspaper published today, Mr Milhim said the Security Council resolutions against Iraq have no connection whatsoever with international legitimacy as they were imposed by the United States to starve the people of Iraq.

He stressed that Iraq's reconstruction campaign reflected its people's capability and rejection of all the mean attempts to destroy their potentials.

He said national duty necessitated standing firmly by Iraq's side and dictated on Arab political forces to adopt all means available to abort the economic blockade imposed on the country.

Radio Calls Qatar-U.S. Agreement 'Treasonous'

JN0706184492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] In Baghdad, the Iraqi radio has described the military agreement between Qatar and the United States as a treasonous agreement of aggression aimed against the Arab nation and its security. The Iraqi radio affirmed that Washington's justification in signing such agreements—namely, to protect the Gulf regimes against external or internal threats—is a pretext that seeks to justify the U.S. presence in the Gulf region.

Paper Reports Kuwaiti Parliamentarians Arrested

JN0706154192 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, June 7, INA—Kuwaiti authorities arrested several members of the so-called Kuwaiti National Assembly (parliament) and other elements who were described as supporters of al-Sabah regime.

AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper today quoted some people recently expelled from Kuwait as saying that an arrest campaign was launched following statements made by former Parliament Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al- Masa'id in which he rejected the U.S. ambassador's interference in Kuwaiti affairs.

The deportees added that Kuwaiti authorities issued a statement denouncing Mr. al-Masa'id's statements and saying that he only spoke for himself.

The deportees stressed that the Kuwaiti people were angered by news circulated by the Kuwaiti regime on the formation of a committee to investigate Mr. al-Masa'id's statement and denounced the U.S. ambassador's interference in Kuwaiti affairs.

They also mentioned that Kuwaiti authorities gave an ultimatum on deporting the Kuwaiti opposition.

Reportage on Fighting, Situation in Kurdistan

Helicopters Attack Peshmerga Headquarters

NC0506180992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Two helicopters of the Baghdad regime strafed the peshmerga headquarters in Nojol and its outskirts at 1030 today. Our ground defenses intercepted the raiding planes and an exchange of fire between the two helicopters and our peshmerga lasted until 1120.

The enemy failed to achieve its objectives, thanks to the fierce resistance put up by the peshmerga fighters.

Kurds Reportedly Demonstrate in North

JN0606120992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jun (INA)—Members of the so-called Kurdistan Front in Kalar district have opened fire on demonstrating citizens who were chanting slogans condemning the despicable conspiracies in northern Iraq, which target the country's unity.

INA has learned that three demonstrators were killed and several others were wounded. One member of the parties of the Kurdistan Front was killed in Kalar when the demonstrators attacked the Front's office Wednesday.

Similar demonstrations were staged in the Governorate of al-Sulaymaniyah and its districts to protest the state of affairs experienced by citizens of the region.

Rebel Ambush Kills 2 Divisional Commanders

NC0706204692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1705 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Two senior Iraqi officers were among those killed in an ambush on the Baghdad-Ba'qubah road. According to eyewitnesses, the commanders of the 17th and [number indistinct] Divisions and some lower-ranking officers were killed.

The regime has admitted widespread opposition to its policies in a number of Iraqi universities. Saddam's son 'Udayy wrote an article in BABIL promising to take revenge on the opposition.

'Military Deterrent Force' Called For

NC0706201892 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1721 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The mandate of the international coalition forces in Turkey will expire before the end of this month. These forces were entrusted with protecting the Kurdish people from any attack the Iraqis might launch to subdue them and bring them under Saddam Husayn's authority. The Kurds gained their freedom following the spring uprising last year.

Although the question of extending the mandate is primarily the concern of the Turkish Government and the coalition states that won the Gulf war, it also concerns the Kurdish people and the international community, and perhaps the dictatorial regime in Baghdad. The regime is waiting for the chance to send its troops and tanks to reoccupy Kurdish towns, subdue the Kurdish people, and replace freedom and democracy in Kurdistan with repression and terrorism.

We call upon the international community to realize the evil and aggressive nature of Saddam Husayn's regime. This is confirmed by the actions of the dictatorial regime in Kurdistan and its wars against Iran, Kuwait, and the international community. Ignoring this fact or paying inadequate attention to it will create new problems for the Iraqi people, Iraq's neighbors, and the entire world, and will undermine security and stability. This will last as long as the Ba'th Party and the dictator Saddam Husayn remain in power in Iraq.

The Kurdish people's experiences with the present regime have taught them many lessons, all of which confirm that the regime cannot be trusted and has lost its credibility. It does not hesitate to do anything as long as it is in the dictatorship's interests, even if it means compromising national sovereignty and dignity.

The people in Iraqi Kurdistan have taken the first steps on the path of development and progress. They have crowned their achievements by electing a Kurdistan parliament. Many neutral parties testified to the free and democratic manner in which the elections were held. The parliament held its first session on 4 June. The Kurdish people have entrusted their hopes, sacrifices, and struggles to the parliament, or the National Council of Iraqi Kurdistan.

One of the priorities to which the Kurdistan parliament should devote a great deal of attention and discussion is how to speed up the establishment of a military deterrent force, capable of defending the people against any threat or attack the dictatorial police forces in Baghdad might carry out in order to negate our achievements and gains. Such a move must first win the support of the coalition parties of the Kurdistan Front, particularly the two main parties, which occupy most of the seats in the parliament.

The international coalition forces cannot continue to protect the Kurds, safeguard their achievements, and deter the dictator forever. The Kurdish people and their legitimately elected council must draft the necessary plans to defend our people and towns against any Iraqi attack. We have no doubt that the Kurdish people and their parties have sufficient power and support to achieve this task, which is everyone's goal and duty.

Turkish Paper on Nascent Kurdish State

NC0606171592 Istanbul 2000 IKIBIN'E DOGRU in Turkish 31 May 92 pp 8-18

[Report by Ferit Ilsever]

[Excerpts] The moment you step into Iraq from the Habur border, the slogan "Welcome to Kurdistan" [preceding three words in English] greets you. After a five-hour trip over a bumpy road you come face to face with a similar slogan at the Shaqlawah headquarters of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]: "Welcome to liberated Kurdistan" [preceding four words in English]. During our February visit to Habur no such slogan existed; an Iraqi flag was flying there.

When asked about this change, ((Dr. Kemal Fuad)), a member of PUK's Political Bureau and head of the Foreign Relations Committee, replied: "We are simply saying 'welcome' to reporters and observers who are here in connection with the elections. It has no other implication." [passage omitted]

The ecstasy felt at the popular level about the concepts of "Kurdistan "and "democracy" diminishes as you go up the leadership rung, where "soberness" and "prudence" reign. Asked if "Iraqi Kurdistan is moving to become an independent state," ((Dr. Fuad)) replied: "Why not? We, however, have no such objective for the time being. We are currently merely filling in an administrative vacuum."

When interviewed by 2000 IKIBIN'E DOGRU, Mas'ud Barzani [leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan—DPK] and PUK leader Jalal Talabani stressed: "We are not thinking of separation from Iraq." Some in the PUK leadership said that it would be "madness" even to think of leaving Iraq. [passage omitted]

Here Is the De Facto Kurdistan!

According to PUK officials, the elections were held in the "two-thirds of Kurdistan" under Kurdish Front control. We are showing this area in the map accompanying our article. The map was prepared by PUK's al-Sulaymaniyah Deputy ((Umer Seyid Eli Husen)) at considerable effort. We thank him for preparing this document, published here for the first time. [The map published on page 8 shows Iraqi "Kurdistan," the boundary of which runs in an almost vertical line from the point where Turkey, Syria and Iraq meet in the north to the Iranian border immediately south of Kifri, Zakho,

Dahuk, Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah are included in the Kurdish area; Mosul and Karkuk are left out.] [passage omitted]

Hammer Force's Umbrella

The Kurdish state being set up mainly evolved under the umbrella of the Hammer Force. It is obvious that Iraqi Kurdistan will continue to be an arena of conflicting interests of imperialists, especially the United States. [passage omitted]

In addition to its strategic importance, northern Iraq's productive lands and oil whet the imperialists' appetite. Firms belonging to various countries, mostly the United States, Britain and Japan, are eager to delve into this market. The British-born Kurd Oil firm entered into the petroleum business in Koysanjaq with a green light from the United Nations. Four Canadian firms are waiting for UN permission to invest $250 million in the area. [passage omitted]

The United States: Kurdish Love!

While traveling near 'Akrah, an aircraft belonging to the Hammer Force flew overhead. Our guide, ((Huseyin Sincari)), who is a member of the PUK's Foreign Relations Committee, stuck his head out of the window and shouted: "I love you America." [preceding four words in English] He did not miss the opportunity to add that this was the natural response of the Kurds towards the U.S. aircraft since the Kurdish exodus.

Most of the foreign-owned cars in northern Iraq carry the following slogan on their windows: "I love Kurdistan." [preceding three words in English] The slogan is from the Kurdish Library in America. The great love (!) between America and Kurdistan gets your immediate attention. As you go high up in the community you could sense a profusion of this love. [passage omitted] There is, however, a strong lack of trust in America among the ordinary people, who are afraid of chemical weapons. Everyone is aware that "America sold us out three times." However, DPK and PUK leaders have embraced a pro-Western policy and are declaring that "once democracy comes to Iraq, we will tell America to go." [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Attacks, Opposition to Regime

Saddam's 'Suspect Steps' on Border

NC0506173492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Excerpts] The despicable tyrant and his henchmen have taken another suspect step to give the Security Council a pretext to hastily pass the draft resolution proposed by the UN Border Committee and ignore the demand by the Iraqi opposition to the Security Council and the major international powers to postpone making a decision on this matter until such time as a legitimate Iraqi government takes control—a government with the right to negotiate with Kuwait and the Security Council regarding Iraq's sovereignty over its territory and waters. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi opposition believes the regime's loud-mouthed prattle about sovereignty and its rejection of the resolution in this defiant manner reveals the stubborn tyrant's intention to implement the last chapters of the conspiracy over Iraq's sovereignty, security, and fate.

A spokesman for the Iraqi opposition repeated his call to the fraternal state of Kuwait to reject such a resolution so long as the tyrant controls political decisionmaking in Iraq. Such a move will plant a time-bomb in the fraternal relations between the two people, in addition to realizing the evil designs of the tyrant to inflict greater harm on Iraq and Kuwait in the future to appease his masters [as heard], who do not want us to eliminate the sources of tension in relations between us. These sources of tension caused the destruction and ruination that shattered security and stability in the region.

Rumors of Saddam's 'Serious Diseases'

NC0706144192 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1320 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Rumors circulating in Mosul these days say that tyrant Saddam is partially paralyzed. In al-Basrah and other southern towns, people pass the news along with utmost pleasure. Other rumors in al-Basrah Governorate say that criminal Saddam has contracted leukemia. These rumors may have a bit of truth to them when you consider that Saddam has not appeared on television for several days. Our people who reject Saddam's terrorism speak of his serious diseases freely and without fear of his collapsing regime.

Opposition Forces Attack Army Post

NC0606142292 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1340 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] As part of our heroic people's struggle to remove the corrupt 'Aflaqite clique from our pure soil, a few days ago mujahidin groups launched a successful attack against outposts in the al-'Adl district belonging to the 2nd Company, 1st Regiment, 3d Brigade.

The attack killed three officers who had sold their consciences to the outcast tyrant Saddam, and wounded a number of other personnel. A tent was also burned. After the daring operation, the brave men of the blessed uprising returned safely to base.

Mujahidin Carry Out 'Daring Operation'

NC0706141592 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic GMT 1320 7 Jun 92

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate: To eliminate repression, terrorism, and the 'Aflalqite policy designed to instill fear in the hearts of women and children, the popular uprising continues its

path of struggle toward victory, God willing, over reckless Saddam and his oppressive regime.

In response to orphans' outcries, the heroic Islamic revolution mujahidin carried out a daring operation in the last few days, breaking the back of the 'Aflaqite in the al-Majidiyah area in rebellious al-Basrah Governorate. The strike at Saddam's humiliated followers destroyed an Army post on the highway between al-Majidiayah and al-Harthah. A first lieutenant and five lowly intelligence personnel were killed in the operation. This is the word of the people who reject reckless Saddam.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Limited, Controlled Entry' of Gazans Begins 8 Jun

TA0506135092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Limited and controlled entry into Israel by Gaza Strip laborers will be permitted as of 8 June. In the first stage, Gaza Strip laborers who are 28 years and older will be allowed into Israel. Their entry will be made possible only if they work at places with more than 10 employees. Israeli employers will have to coordinate the laborers' entry and will undertake to transport them and handle both their stay in Israel and their return to the Gaza Strip. The restrictions also stipulate that entry into Israel of workers from the al-Nusayrat refugee camp will be totally banned at this stage. Supervision at the roadblocks also will be stepped up. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the decisions mean that only a few thousand instead of 40,000 Gaza Strip laborers will enter Israel. The security forces will have to organize in order to implement the decisions, and this will begin on Monday only.

'Confusion' Slows Entry

TA0806062192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] As of the moment, no laborer has left the Gaza Strip for work in Israel. Many are currently waiting at the Erez checkpoint, and our correspondent Moti Amir reports that many are being sent back home because of their age, because they came from the al-Nusayrat refugee camp, or for other reasons.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has set up checkpoints along the roads leading to the exit from the Gaza Strip. Passage is slow, and our correspondent says that those wishing to leave are confused about the regulations. Local residents believe that in the end, only several hundred people will leave for work in Israel.

Settlers Riot as 100 Leave Gaza

TA0806092492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] As of the moment, only some 100 residents of the Gaza Strip have left for work in Israel. Some 60 Jewish employers arrived at the Gaza Strip and went through the required procedure at the Civil Administration's Employment Services. They were given some 1,500 new exit permits for their employees. Our Correspondent Moti Amir reports that due to the reorganization, which lasted until late this morning, most of the laborers whose papers were processed will leave for work in Israel only tomorrow.

In three junctions in the Gaza Strip, settlers rallied to protest the lifting of the Gaza closure. The settlers attempted to prevent Arab residents of the Strip from leaving for work in Israel. They blocked the junctions and threw stones at cars coming from the Strip.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has denied this report. According to him, roads were not blocked, there were no riots, and no cars were pelted with stones.

Border Police Shoot Two During Vehicle Inspection

TA0706110292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] A Border Police detail this morning shot, wounded, and captured two armed terrorists in the course of a routine vehicle inspection in Khan Yunus. The critically injured men were transferred to the Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon.

Our correspondent Moti Amir has learned from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman that the policemen, while checking vehicles, noticed suspect commotion inside one of the cars. Suddenly two terrorists, armed with Carl Gustafs [9mm submachine guns], emerged from the car. The policemen opened fire, wounding the two. No civilians or citizens were injured in the incident. The Khan Yunus District commander praised the Border Police detail's prompt action.

It has been further learned today that several days ago, the security forces captured two wanted men in the vicinity of the security fence in Rafah. The two were caught while attempting to cross over to Egypt.

Police To Block Protest March Over Green Line

TA0706103692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] A left-wing protest demonstration from Haifa to Jerusalem made its way this morning to the Megiddo detention center in the Yizre'el Valley. The hundreds of activists from Israel, Europe, and the United States intend marching across the Green Line into Samaria and then on to Jerusalem, but the police and the Army are preparing to stop the protest, since the request to hold the march was not approved.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 7 June adds that to prevent the march from crossing the Green Line, "the police have placed barriers at the crossroads between Megiddo and Janin."]

115 Peace Demonstrators

TA0706191992

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 7 June reports that "clashes took place at the Makhpela Cave in Hebron this morning between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and settlers who refused to vacate the Isaac Hall in the cave and continued to pray there contrary to instructions. Two Qiryat Arba' residents were held up for interrogation by the Hebron police. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that when the worshippers were making their way back

from the Makhpela Cave to their homes they were stoned by local Hebron Arabs and in reaction some of the settlers fired shots in the air.

"In Tulkarm, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli bus today. The bottle missed the bus. Another Molotov cocktail, ready for use, was discovered in subsequent searches in the area. Our correspondent adds that a Molotov cocktail was thrown in Nabulus at a military vehicle moving near the town hall. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 7 June reports that "police have arrested 115 left-wing demonstrators this afternoon from Israel, Europe and the United States. They were staging a demonstration against Israeli occupation and for peace in the Middle East at the Kafr Salim junction near Megiddo. They were arrested for blocking the road and trying to march beyond the Green Line against police orders."

Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 7 June adds that "early yesterday evening, the residents of Rafah's refugee camp clashed with IDF forces, openly challenging IDF and Border Police patrol cars." The television adds, "For two weeks about 70,000 laborers have not left the Gaza Strip for work in Israel, and the economic distress and pressure are leaving their marks. Official Army sources reported that three border policemen were slightly injured by stones and that there are no reports of Arab injuries. Palestinian sources, however, claim 15 people were injured." The videoclip accompanying this report shows Arabs running, shouting, and throwing stones at IDF cars, with the reporter noting that "these are pictures shot by the Visnews network and relayed world-wide via satellite."

Gaza Mukhtar Shot Dead; Sit-In at Red Cross

TA0706094792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The mukhtar of the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp, 50-year- old Shafiq al-Hasi, was murdered by masked men at the local market this morning. He was shot four times in the head and died on the spot. The murder occurred in a shop in the Dayr al-Balah market as the mukhtar was sitting down to have coffee.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that about 20 men are staging a sit-in strike at the Red Cross offices in Gaza today. They are protesting the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.

Deportee Hearing Postponed Until After Elections

TA0806082992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jun 92 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem is becoming increasingly concerned that the Arab countries might take advantage of the plan to deport 11 Palestinians and, perhaps, of the prolonged blockade on the Gaza Strip as well to demand that the UN Security Council impose sanctions on Israel similar to those adopted against Serbia, Libya, and Iraq.

According to senior officials, it was recently decided to postpone the deportation of the 11 Palestinians in light of warnings about serious international repercussions.

The officials pointed out that the decision to postpone the Supreme Court hearing on the 11 prospective deportees, which had been scheduled for 10 June, was made at the highest political echelon. The hearing was postponed to 24 June, a day after the elections.

Senior political sources confirmed that one of the reasons for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's instruction to Attorney General Yosef Harish to comply with the request for a postponement was the entreaties from many embassies in Israel and from the UN representation in particular. Furthermore, cables received from Israeli envoys overseas cautioned about the repercussions of these deportations.

The sources added that Shamir decided on the postponement after consulting with senior ministers.

It should be noted that when Ministers Ari'el Sharon and Moshe Qatzav complained at the last cabinet session about the delay in executing the deportation orders, Harish replied that there is no reason for them to meddle in the work of the courts. [passage omitted]

Sources 'Regret' Arab Decision on Rome Talks

TA0806053292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem expressed regret this evening over the Arab parties' decision not to participate in a new round of bilateral peace negotiations during the current month in Rome. These sources told our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor that the peace process and Israel's commitment to move forward in the process are not connected to the election campaign or to its outcome, because Israel's decision to participate in these negotiations is binding on any government that will be set up. The sources added that the U.S. Administration's inclination is to invite the parties to meet in Rome immediately after the Israeli elections and not wait until the establishment of a new Israeli Government.

Complaint Over al-Husayni Visit to 'Arafat Filed

TA0706182692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Excerpts] A political source in Jerusalem expressed satisfaction this evening with the decision in Amman to continue the direct talks with Israel. This is reported by our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik. [passage omitted]

Tehiya Knesset Member [MK] Elyaqim Ha'etzni has filed another complaint with the police against Faysal al-Husayni for the latter's direct contacts with PLO leaders. The complaint is based on photographs of al-Husayni, shown on television yesterday, in which he was seen with PLO members in Amman. MK Ha'etzni says that al-Husayni has again violated the law dealing with the prevention of terror.

Two SLA Soldiers Die in Bomb Explosion

TA0606082092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Two SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers were killed when a large roadside bomb exploded in the Jazzin area in southern Lebanon. This was reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

SLA troops stationed in Jazzin retaliated by firing at Hizballah targets in the Tuffah area.

IDF, SLA Fire on Hizballah Targets 7 Jun

TA0706094492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Throughout last night and today, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions directed sporadic artillery fire at Hizballah targets north of the security zone.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned from the UN command that the blasting consisted of measured gunfire, with a few shells fired in each volley.

King Husayn Addresess Mu'tah University Graduates

JN0606171592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1123 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Speech by King Husayn at a ceremony marking the graduation of the fifth class of cadets at Mu'tah University in al-Karak on 6 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Here I am, in the early 15th [hegira] century, calling on the nation and its virtuous sons, poor, martyrs, and scholars to return to brotherhood, right, and freedom; to re-read its great book which says: "You are the best of peoples evolved for mankind" [koranic verse]; and to take refuge in its power, resources, and unity in this world, in which faith is the only defender—a world that is being shaped while some of us are trying to catch up with it without understanding its realities, while others have become its fuel without having any role, opinion, or choice.

We are firm in our position which supports right, freedom, and the nation; learning, working, sowing seeds, and have the ability and will to start anew.

Brothers and beloved ones: The Jordanians have stood fast on this land. They have passed through years like the al-Ramadah year [year 18 hegira during the era of the second orthodox caliph 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab] and a siege like the siege of the trench [the Mecca infidels' siege of Prophet Muhammad in Medina in year 5 hegira]. They remained advocates of the nation's independence, unity, and control over its resources and future. To that end, they went through a difficult era, characterized by their stubborn resolve and besieged by the injustice of the relatives. No pressure made them relent and no siege weakened their position. The banners of Mu'tah and al-Karamah remained stained with their blood and hoisted high at their hands, testifying that the grandchildren of those who believed in their God and nation and marched with the army of the Greater Arab Revolt from the Hejaz to Damascus are still loyal to the pledge, with a clear vision and conscience and as zealous as their forefathers who joined the early Muslim conquests. Your university's halls, laboratories, and training grounds were given the names of those martyrs, starting with those who were killed in the Mu'tah battle and ending with those who were killed not long ago in the al-Karamah battle in 1968.

Together, we have shouldered responsibility in this dear country. I have lived among you and with you as a soldier, brother, and king; and above all, and until I meet my God, as an Arab, a Hashemite, a Muslim, and, with the blessings of God, as a sharif from the household of Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and prayers be upon him, and from the clan of Hashim, whether any one likes it or not. I seek only to please God and have a clear conscience.

When I recall the endurance of my noble Jordanian kinfolk and the virtuous ones in our nation, I feel both satisfaction and pain: Satisfaction because this country has crossed a difficult bridge, a bridge to freedom and progress toward science with its people as resolute and relentless as ever; and pain because of the state of our nation, which—whenever it gives birth to a renaissance scheme, opens a door to progress, or brandishes a sword to defend right—is attacked by enemies from afar and its ungrateful sons until it has emerged from its experiences with the pan-Arab fabric joining it together shredded and with hunger surrounding its children. The nation emerged from these experiences isolated from its past and future, ruminating its patience and anger and searching for a place on this earth; a place it was deprived by the world order, both the old and the new, which weakened it to the extent that no part of its body is free from treacherous stab marks from far and near, wounds by siege, or bleeding from pain.

Here we are in this dear country looking at the picture of the new Jordan—a Jordan which has the legitimacy of the message, the legitimacy of the revolution, the legitimacy of history, the legitimacy of Arabism, the legitimacy of martyrdom, and the legitimacy of freedom, democracy, and justice; and Jordan, the great and the adamant, which carries the responsibility of Arab Islamic history and which has scored achievements in science, construction, and industry. Jordan's greatest achievement, however, was in preparing its individuals, who carried the burden of its progress and the progress of the brothers in other parts of the nation when he, and they, fought the forces of backwardness, ignorance, and disease under the most difficult and bitter circumstances.

We, by God, do not take pride in things we do not have. Nor are we a burden on others or seek gratitude from any one. We will remain advocates of right and virtue, supporting every brother who comes to us in the name of the free and noble nation, which must, at one point, take the reins of awakening and struggle and stand on the side of justice, democracy, and the dignity of man.

We will tell our cousins who do not share our view: We do not support our tribe in its wrongdoing, but we support it if does what is right. It will certainly know what is right before too long, lest the frightened drag their nation into something it does not approve of and which our future generations will reject.

We want the new Jordan, with its people, culture, and universities to be democratic in facing the challenges and shouldering its responsibility. We wanted a new Jordan in which the people's links with the Constitution and the National Charter are strengthened, so that they all serve as a bridge over which the country can cross to the new phase and not to turn the country, God forbid, into a bridge over which those with narrow political, party, economic, or social interests can cross to their little ambitions.

We also want Jordan to be a country united with its people, spirit, and family; a country which accepts different opinions and rejects division, subservience, fragmentation, and backward movement.

That is why we insist on further democracy and dialogue in our universities and on the most elevated forms of academic freedom and the freedom to research and ask questions. We want to turn all of these into a way of life that reaches to the depths of the social and political structure so that we will no longer have amongst us anyone who closes the doors to interpretations, imposes dictatorship in his administrative or political position, or turns a blind eye to wrongdoing. This needs a sincere and systematic review of many aspects of the various levels of our educational renaissance. It also needs a permanent interaction with the world around us with all its deep transformations.

Brothers, we have seen difficult years. Palestine was, and still is, the closest cause to us. It is our cause. When duty called on us to defend the West Bank and Jerusalem, our Army fought and rescued them. When it was decided to unite the two banks, we provided an outstanding example of Arab unity. The second wave of refugees came after the 1967 war. Things then developed into the al-Rabat [1974 Arab summit] resolutions and the [1988] disengagement decision which you know about. Then came the third wave of refugees, which illustrated the misery of the Arab experience when the huge lands of the nation proved too inhospitable to accommodate its sons, and we said "welcome" to our brother returnees after they were expelled by the land of thirst, salt, and burning oil.

And here is Amman embracing all of us. Its sword has never missed the target, nor have its walls ever bowed, or has its voice experienced any change. It has never taken off its pan-Arab cloak. Here it is entering the time of relief after straitened circumstances, nourishing its experience to help it mature, and becoming a capital for the nation's culture and pride, and an example for helping the dream of democracy come true, for embarking on efforts aimed at achieving social progress on the basis of justice and equality, and also for accepting the challenge of comprehensive peace within the framework of international legitimacy. It is the peace that will restore Palestinian rights to their rightful owners on their national soil under the Palestinians' legitimate and sole leadership which they have chosen, and in true coordination with the Palestinian brothers. Under this coordination, they will have the right to tackle the Palestinian dimension of the conflict. In the same vein, we will have the right to tackle issues that concern Jordan. We will remain on this soil members of the same and one family, regardless of the origins and ancestral lineage of the people, and continue to support the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied territories until they regain their rights on their national soil, and later choose, in total freedom, as the Jordanians would choose, the formula of the relationship they and their future generations would deem acceptable, and decide on how far this relationship should go. We will continue to work to prevent the nation from becoming a victim of further catastrophes. We will continue to look toward Arab and Islamic Jerusalem. It has never dawned on us at any moment in the lifetime of this homeland that there can be any party that is closer to Jerusalem than us, or more concerned for it than us, or that the blood of this party's kinfolk and soldiers could shine on its walls as did the blood of the household of Prophet Muhammad and that of good Jordanians.

Brothers: First and foremost, I urge you to meet the challenges of the age in terms of the perspective and thinking required. The question of meeting these challenges is put to the universities that formulate visions and draw up plans for development, environmental protection, and the building of dams; train the minds; use technology; cultivate plains and valleys; and reclaim deserts so that they may find answers that are commensurate with the challenges posed. This is necessary if the social and democratic construction endeavor is to continue and if reverence for the rule of law is to be enhanced. Furthermore, this would make it impossible for us to drop three things; namely, the sword, the book, and grain. When such a thing happens, those who have done themselves an injustice and misunderstood our positions will know that we will remain on this hill and in this valley, guarding the nation's land; and that the al-sharif [descendant of Prophet Muhammad; also meaning an honorable person] among us is honorable in his code of conduct and lineage, and also in his loyalty to his religion, Arabism, and homeland. And then, we hope that doubt-casting will stop; that a window of hope will be opened; that the Arab individual will hopefully be freed from fear, despotism, and poverty; and that he will attain his natural and human rights so that he may support us against the surge of parochialism and deviation from pan-Arabism, and so that he may support the camp of those vindicating justice, freedom, and man's dignity.

This homeland held out in the face of the Balfour Declaration and displayed a determination to have pan-Arab beginnings and a pan-Arab experience. Through ethics, science, and the mind, it has managed to recover from numerous setbacks. It radiated an Arab spirit toward the nation and projected itself as a support for brothers as well. Its impact is manifestly clear in books, schools, and farms. It is included in the list of those vindicating rights and justice whenever evil dispositions plague man's modern civilization, inflicting injustice, attrition, and siege on the poor.

Brother graduates: Let each of you show gallantry in his ethics and pride. May each of you hold out in his trench; and show creativity in his performance, seriousness in his search for novelties, and hard work in his utilization of his mental capacities. Let each of you be aware of the current world affairs and strongly supportive of his nation's humane struggle against the attempts to dominate and control peoples' resources. Let each of you demonstrate altruism when issues regarding the homeland are concerned. Let each of you be part of an effective current rather than fragmented forces, isolated oases, or utopian groupings. Let creativity be inventive and let enthusiasm be rational. Besides, you should find

true answers to the issues of war and peace, development, progress, science, and food security. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers: You, soldiers and instructors, have shouldered the burden. Similarly, your kinfolk, be they farmers, manufacturers, youths, elderly people, women, and men, all endured the burden. You all held out in the face of all sieges and misunderstandings. So, each of us can sing the following line of poetry: We would rather eat dirt than see a trespasser show haughtiness toward us.

Jordan, God willing, will remain steadfast. This elite group of the household of Prophet Muhammad will remain as you have always known it to be. Whenever a master of this household dies, another one emerges [part of a line of poetry], and whenever a martyr of it falls, a new martyr embraces the banner. So, let us be a single spirit, looking forward to the era of freedom and leaving behind all dictatorial whims that plagued the nation's land. Besides, let us move from individualism to the collective spirit, from darkness to light, and from superstition to mind so that we may build a society based on justice and solidarity that is immune to the ambitions of all parties, and that is capable of putting up fierce resistance, rage, and pride in the face of drought, scarce oil resources, the injustice meted out against us by our kinfolk, and the despotism of tyrants, for which there are still advocates in this world, not to mention the power which they wield. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Address to Graduates Reviewed

JN0606120092 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] His majesty the king has said that Jordan is the trustee of Arab history, nationalism, mission, revolt, freedom, democracy, and justice. It is also the country that is the trustee of Arab Islamic history and its achievements in terms of progress in all domains. In a national speech to the nation today at the graduation ceremony of the fifth class of cadets of Mu'tah University, his majesty said: We wanted the new Jordan to become a bridge for the entire Arab homeland to cross to the new phase of progress and prosperity. We wanted it to be united, democratic, and free.

His majesty the king said: The Palestinian cause remains our most important Arab cause, and we are accepting the challenge of comprehensive peace within the framework of international legitimacy. He said: We are seeking a peace that is capable of regaining the rights of the Palestinians on their national soil under their sole, legitimate leadership, which they have chosen.

His majesty reaffirmed that Jordan supports the steadfastness of the people of the occupied territories until they regain their legitimate rights and become free from occupation, and consequently choose the kind of relationship they want with the Jordanians.

His majesty asserted that Jordan will continue to aspire for the liberation of Arab Islamic Jerusalem, and our attachment to the holy city will continue forever.

His majesty the king said Jordan will continue to hold out and will continue to represent the aspirations of the nation to independence, unity, and freedom. His majesty called on the Arab nation to accept the challenge as it had done in earlier times and decide on whatever is in its national interest.

He said the Arab nation has not died and will never die. On the contrary, it is about to enter a new revolution rejuvenating the spirit and goals of Arab revolutionaries who sought freedom and progress for this nation.

His majesty called on the graduates to do their best to contribute to the progress and the new renaissance of the Arab nation.

'Arafat, Iraq's 'Aziz Confer in Amman

JN0606200092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1845 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, state of Palestine president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, today received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz at 'Arafat's place of residence in Amman. 'Aziz conveyed to him Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's greetings and wishes of speedy recovery. He also conveyed greetings and best wishes from the Iraqi Government and people.

'Arafat asked 'Aziz to convey his gratitude and appreciation to his excellency President Saddam Husayn for his good wishes. He wished Iraq further progress and prosperity.

'Arafat and 'Aziz also reviewed the latest developments in the Arab, international, and Palestinian arenas.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department; and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador to Jordan.

On the Iraqi side, the meeting was attended by Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Iraq's ambassador in Amman.

Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Amman this morning to reassure himself about Mr. 'Arafat's health.

'Bright Star' Aerial Maneuvers Suspended

JN0706182892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Informed sources in Amman say that the United States has decided to suspend the Bright Star aerial maneuvers with Jordan, scheduled for the end of June, because of what Washington considers to be Jordanian violations of the anti-Iraq embargo.

Meanwhile, Jordanian officials have reiterated Jordan's adherence to the embargo. The United State, however, is displeased because Amman rejected a U.S. request to change its position toward Iraq or to agree to the stationing of international observers at the Jordanian-Iraqi border. The Jordanian sources add that it is very difficult to agree on the stationing of observers along the Jordanian border unless the same thing is applied to the borders of other Iraqi neighbors; namely, Syria, Turkey, and Iran.

Reportage on Arab Quadripartite Meeting in Amman

Syria's al-Shar' Arrives for Meeting

JN0606101792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Amman this morning to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries participating in the bilateral peace talks. The meeting will open in Amman this afternoon.

Speaking to reporters, al-Shar' described the meeting as extremely important. He noted the importance of the topics on the agenda, which focus on the evaluation of the results of the bilateral negotiations in Washington and Madrid. Mr. al-Shar' pointed out the need for coordination among the Arab parites involved in these talks.

Further on al-Shar' Statements

JN0606144092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] The third coordination meeting for foreign ministers of Arab countries participating in the bilateral peace negotiations begins in Amman this evening. The foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, and the PLO Political Department head will participate in this meeting.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Amman this morning to attend the meeting. He made statements to the press on arrival which were communicated to us by our correspondent.

Asked about the topics that will be discussed during the meeting, Al-Shar' said:

[Begin al-Shar' recording] There is no doubt that coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace process is important, particularly at this criticial stage in the region. We believe that the topics listed on the four-way meeting agenda are important topics, the foremost being the peace process which started with Madrid conference. We will exchange views on the sessions that have been held so far, whether in Madrid, or in Washington. We will jointly assess them and draw the necessary conclusions from these sessions. We will then look to the future to pursue this operation, affirming the importance of coordination among the Arab parties to prevent further Israeli maneuvers and obstacles on the road of the peace process.

The second topic, as we see it, deals with the recurrent Israeli attacks on Lebanon, and the gravity of these attacks because they actually endanger the peace process and place the region before the perils of a new war. There is a third topic, which we, as a Syrian delegation, wish to submit to the brothers at this four-way meeting and exchange views about it. This topic deals with a serious manifestation, the manifestation that Israel seems to be exempted and excepted from the new world order and from the commitment to the UN Charter and the UN Security Council resolutions. From this premise, the Arab side, represented by the four Arab parties concerned with the peace process, should draw international public opinion's attention to the gravity of this manifestation in terms of the impact it may have on the forthcoming peace process and what Israel could carry out such as continuing its aggression against Lebanon and other countries at this stage. [end recording]

Al-Shar' said that Syria supports an emergency Arab foreign ministers meeting to discuss the Israeli aggression against Lebanon which has called for such a meeting. Al-Shar' said that Syria's stand on the multilaterals has not changed. He said that the reasons for taking such a stand are still there and with their disappearance, Syria will join the multilateral negotiations.

On whether he is optimistc about the future of the peace process, Al-Shar' said:

[Begin al-Shar' recording] Generally speaking, we can never lose hope, or stop being optimistic about regaining our occupied territories and our usurped rights. This is something dictated by history as people cannot give up their lands and rights. But, from the other side, we are not optimistic with the Israeli stand because the Israeli stand, so far, remains intransigent and obstructs the peace process. Israel does not wish to reach a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of resolutions 242 and 338. However, the coordination among the four Arab parties is important in terms of bringing pressure to bear on Israel through the international community and the peace process and the momentum it possesses to compel all parties to attain a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions. [end recording]

Al-Shar' was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general, the ministry's protocol director, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus and the Syrian ambassador in Amman.

The delegation accompanying al-Shar' is made up of Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the bilateral peace negotiations, and other officials.

Al-Shar' Interviewed on Peace Process

JN0706200492 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1924 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Murid Hammad in Amman on 6 June—recorded]

[Text] [Hammad] Mr. al-Shar', thank you for giving us your time, and maybe we will talk about the hottest issue of all—the issue of the peace process. You have entered the peace process right from the beginning. And in Madrid, you joined hands with the Arab foreign ministers, stressing the justice concept of solving the Middle East problem. Can you tell us more about the Syrian position? And what is it that you envisage that you want to see out of these peace talks?

[Al-Shar'] The Syrian position is very clear. What we want is to implement United Nations resolutions, in particular, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. These resolutions call for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands and safeguarding the Palestinian national rights. And we think these two requirements are important in order to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

[Hammad] The Israelis are saying: Okay, we might agree with the concept of 242 as a basis, but the resolution itself is not binding, and therefore, we do not want to talk about it. Is this the understanding under which you entered the peace process?

[Al-Shar'] Not at all. I think—as it is clear for everybody—UN Security Council resolutions are binding for all the parties concerned, in accordance with Provision 25 of the United Nations Charter. You can add to this that Resolution 338 stipulates that Resolution 242 should be implemented immediately by the parties concerned. That is why we say that the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are binding, and they have to be implemented.

[Hammad] But so far in the talks, you have not been able to discuss 242. Every time the Syrian delegation met with the Israeli delegation in Washington, the Israelis came up with some kind of a propaganda ploy and tried to intimidate the Syrian delegation. Does that reflect nonseriousness on the Israeli part?

[Al-Shar'] Well, it is clear until this moment that Shamir's government is not serious about achieving peace in the region. In fact, the Israeli delegation—as it seemed to us throughout the five rounds of peace talks in Washington—is not willing to make peace, and, in fact, is trying to avoid, whenever the Syrian delegation is cornering them and showing them that there is no other alternative—if we want peace in the region—but to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the Israeli delegation is trying to avoid all of this, and trying to create side issues to talk about things that are not so important for the peace process. And, in fact, we have concluded that, as though the Israeli delegation in the peace talks has the instruction not to be forthcoming, not to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and not to be so serious in reaching that conclusion, which the peoples of the region aspire to have.

[Hammad] But you are committed to peace in the Middle East?

[Al-Shar'] Certainly.

[Hammad] And despite that, every time you went to Washington, there has been a round of Israeli attacks on south Lebanon. There has been an intimidating gesture, like deporting Palestinians. Do you feel...

[Al-Shar', interrupting] Well, this is... [changes thought] You are right. I mean, that is why when we accuse the Israeli Government of being unwilling to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, we are so objective, because we feel that they will do anything, whether over the negotiating table or in the occupied territories in order to undermine the peace process. Take, for instance, the repressive measures that they have taken in the West Bank and Gaza. The Gaza is under siege now. Lebanon has been for the last two weeks under heavy shelling by the Israeli fighters, by the Israeli guns, and through the so-called South Lebanese Army. It is obvious that the Israeli Government is not only trying to undermine the peace process and to provoke the Arab side in order to leave the peace talks, but it is also heading towards bringing the region to the brink of war in order to kill the peace process once and for all. And I am sure that so many countries, so many politicians all over the world, have discovered the Israeli intentions to kill the peace process.

[Hammad] There is a pattern, as mentioned. Bearing in mind that pattern, and bearing in mind what some analysts say, that these moves are designed as an electoral ploy by the Shamir government, do you agree with that point? Or do you think it is a pattern of a much wider Israeli policy?

[Al-Shar'] Well, I think this is one of the major intentions of the Israeli Government to address the extremists in Israel to gain votes through its continuous bombardment on the Lebanese villages, the killings that have taken place there. So many innocent people have lost their lives. So many houses have been destroyed. The Israeli Government wants to give or to send a message to the Israeli people that it is strong, it can kill anybody challenging the Israeli occupation without being punished for that. And here we come to the question of international legitimacy and the talk about new international order and the importance of implementing UN Security Council resolutions. It seems to us as though Israel feels it is exempted from abiding by UN Security Council resolutions; is exempted from the international new order, which everybody talks about. It is as though it is exempted from the commitment, which every state in the world has expressed towards the UN Charter.

Take, for instance, the recent events that involved Iraq, Libya, and now Yugoslavia. The Security [Council] has passed so many resolutions against aggression, against even suspicion. Israel is now doing almost all that has been done by so many, by those countries who have been under the Security Council scrutiny. Israel has, in fact, as I have said, exercised maximum brutality against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Gaza is under siege. Also, it has been continuously shelling the Lebanese villages in the south of Lebanon, undermining the security of Lebanon, threatening the Lebanese in the south; and yet the Security Council has done nothing. And this is really something which we, the Arabs, have to take into consideration and have to enlighten the world public opinion that this is not acceptable, that the Arabs cannot accept this double-standard treatment, that Israel should not be exempted from its commitment toward the UN Charter and the UN Security Council resolutions.

[Hammad] Do you think that these policies are in the interest of the Israeli people, let us say, or the region in general?

[Al-Shar'] Not at all, because in fact such a policy would undermine the very stability in the region. These are destabilizing factors, whether in the West Bank, in Gaza, or in Lebanon. In this case, we should never think that there would be peace without Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories. And since the Government of Israel is saying publicly and bluntly that it would not withdraw from the occupied territories, this would mean that it doesn't want peace, that Israel doesn't want peace. And if Israel doesn't want peace, certainly it should never imagine that the Arabs would accept peace without regaining their occupied territories and restoring their legitimate rights. So Israel is responsible, and it would remain responsible for any instability in the region and for any tension or any escalation as long as it does not abide by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and also UN Security Council Resolution 425, relevant to the Lebanese issue. There would be no peace if these resolutions are not implemented.

[Hammad] Would you expect any international intervention to sort the deadlock, whether that is for the Security Council in the case of south Lebanon and Gaza, or whether that through the cosponsors of the peace process trying to tell Israel: Listen, you have to sit down and you have to negotiate in good faith?

[Al-Shar'] Well, so far, we have accepted the American initiative. We will continue, in the light of the American assurances given to us and to the other parties, those concerned with the peace process. And, in case the Americans are unable to fulfill their commitments, or the Americans are unwilling to fulfill what they have undertaken as far as the peace initiative is concerned, then we would have to refer the whole problem to the Security Council in order to address it directly and to do whatever possible to implement these resolutions: 242, 338, and 425.

[Hammad] Allow me to move to the situation in south Lebanon now. There's been an almost nonstop bombardment and air raids on south Lebanon, and I understand that in the recent days these air raids have moved eastwards very close to the Syrian positions in that area. Two days ago, President al-Asad described the raids and the Israeli policies as taking the area into the brink of war. Do you expect such policies to lead to new war, or do you expect that it is intentionally made this way; the Israelis want to escalate it for particular reason.

[Al-Shar'] Well, it is clear, since the Israeli Government is not keen on achieving peace. In this case, it has put before itself and before the peoples of the region the possibility for war. And it is going to initiate the war in the region, and to put the region in the brink of war, not the Arab side. It is clear that we wanted peace, and we are serious about the peace process; but, at the same time, we cannot sit idle if the Israelis started the war. From our side, as President al-Asad has said recently that we are not heading or intending to make war in the region because we are in a peace process, we want this peace process to succeed.

[Hammad] Allow me to go back to the peace process now. You have a very basic demand out of this peace process—the Syrian part of the demand besides the national part or the Arab part—which is the Golan Heights. Can you fill us in on anything that you'd like us to know about how the negotiations are going regarding the Golan Heights? What are the Israeli demands, and what is your position?

[Al-Shar'] Syria is seeking a comprehensive and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the region. And the comprehensiveness of the settlement is important if we wanted peace in the region. And we consider that all the parties, all the Arab parties to the peace process, the four, should concentrate on this objective; that is, the implementation of these UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

It is true that we will talk about the implementation of these Resolutions 242 and 338, because they are the bases for a Middle Eastern settlement here. But if we wanted a stable peace, durable settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict, then all of us, all the Arab parties, should call for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab land, because this is the only way to achieve genuine peace and stability in this region. It is obvious for so many countries in the world that partial solutions wouldn't bring peace. We have had this experience before, and yet peace is still far away from the region. We are serious about achieving a comprehensive peace in the region. And I think this is what the American Administration has repeatedly committed itself to. President Bush in more than one message to President al-Asad has confirmed that the American Administration is seeking a comprehensive peace in the region. And that's what we want in fact.

[Hammad] Do you think the Americans will be able to, or will be given the opportunity to eventually interfere in the peace talks? Do you think it will reach a stage where the cosponsor intervention is a must?

[Al-Shar'] If the Israelis are serious and they are going to implement these resolutions with all that they imply, then perhaps there would be no need for an American intervention in the peace talks. But in the light of the Israeli intransigence, it seems to us that the American intervention in the peace talks is a must at a certain stage. But even if we felt at a certain phase that the Americans are unable to influence or to pressure the Israelis to implement these UN Security Council resolutions, then, as I've told you, we have to refer the whole problem to the Security Council, because UN Security Council resolutions are binding, and they have to be implemented.

[Hammad] I know politicians and diplomats hate to speculate, but I will ask you to speculate. Let's say Yitzhaq Shamir wins the next Israeli election. What do you think this whole thing will lead to vis-a-vis the peace process? Do you think Israel's position will change? Do you think it will remain intransigent? Do you think any Israeli Government would be a better alternative?

[Al-Shar'] Well, I tell you when we entered the peace process, we had an objective before us. This objective is very clear—that Israel should withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and safeguard the Palestinian national rights. Without these two requisites, there will be no peace. And if Israel claims that it wants peace without withdrawal from the occupied Arab land, then it's lying to the public opinion, it's not serious about peace, and such a claim would not mislead the public opinion forever. It could have misled the public opinion for so many years in the past, and now it might be a little bit vague for some people. But I think after these five rounds of peace talks, so many countries, especially concerned countries with the peace process, big powers, have discovered that Israeli intransigent position is a major obstacle to peace. And this cannot be acceptable, not only by the peoples of the region, by the Arabs, but also by the whole international community. And there will come a stage when Israel is cornered and is required, is requested, to implement these UN Security Council resolutions, or otherwise it will be isolated in the international arena, no doubt about it.

[Hammad] Do you have the feeling that the international public opinion is changing regarding the role of Israel and about its intentions towards peace?

[Al-Shar'] I can say that the Israelis have been able to mislead the public opinion for so many years. But after Madrid peace conference, they are unable to keep misleading the public opinion as they used to be. Now they have to face the reality, and the reality dictates that if we wanted peace in this region, there has to be a withdrawal from the occupied territories. Without this, there will be no peace. And if Israel keeps saying: There will be no withdrawal, and this is the land of Israel, etc., etc., then it is responsible for blocking the road for peace; it is responsible for any tension in the region; it will be responsible for any upheavals that might take place in our region, because no one should be under the illusion that the Arabs would give up their occupied territories or give any concession regarding their national, legitimate rights.

[Hammad] What about the Arabs? Do you feel that the Western public opinion is also changing—that there is more sympathy towards the Arabs, or there is more understanding of our position?

[Al-Shar'] I beg your pardon?

[Hammad] About the Arab image in the West. Do you feel it is changing towards the Arabs? For example, the Arabs have been always stereotyped as very rich and terrorists, and all kinds of synonyms that they are always used to describe the Arabs. Do you feel that this is changing now as the peace process...

[Al-Shar', interrupting] Well, it is changing, though slowly, but surely. I think Israel cannot keep misleading the public opinion or keep distorting the image of the Arabs without being checked. Now, since the peace conference in Madrid, the Arabs have expressed their willingness, their desire, their seriousness to make peace in the region. In the past, this image of the Arabs as peace makers was not clearly demonstrated because of the Israeli influence in the international media. Now they cannot keep misleading the public opinion, and the facts will surface, and the international community will know that the Arabs want peace and Israel does not want peace. And this will change, dramatically, the image of the Arabs and the Israelis in the eyes of the public opinion everywhere. And that in itself is very important, I think.

[Hammad] We have enough time to ask you one more question, and I will restrict it to the meeting in Amman. What do you hope to achieve, and what would be your next move toward the peace process?

[Al-Shar'] We hope to achieve a solid basis for cooperation, because, I think, the cooperation between the four parties concerned with peace is very important to the success of the peace process. Coordination among the four Arab parties would help the peace process and, at the same time, would stop, or minimize the Israeli maneuvers, the Israeli intentions to undermine the peace process. But if we had differences among us, then Israel would feel at ease in order to keep maneuvering and to keep putting obstacles in the way to peace.

[Hammad] Mr. al-Shar', thank you very much for giving us your time to talk to Jordan television, and we hope you will enjoy your stay here, and wish you a very successful meeting.

[Al-Shar'] Thank you very much.

Lebanon's Buwayz on Importance of Meeting

JN0606080992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 6 jun 92

[Text] The third coordination meeting for Arab foreign ministers participating in the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks opens in Amman today.

During this two-day meeting, the Arab parties will review and evaluate the results of the rounds of bilateral negotiations held following the Madrid conference and coordinate among themselves to draw up a joint visualization of the next stage. The participants will also discuss the Israeli violations in the occupied Arab territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and the continued Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz arrived in Amman yesterday evening to take part in this meeting. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will arrive today.

In a press statement on arrival in Amman airport, Faris Buwayz noted the importance of the quadripartite meeting due to the fact that the Middle East region is approaching a critical turning point because the continued Arab efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace are still being obstructed by continued Israeli refusal to achieve the desired peace. He said that participants in the quadripartite meeting will discuss the upcoming stage in the peace process, noting the need for the Arab parties involved to arrive at a joint visualization in line with the requirements of the next stage.

Buwayz added that the Lebanese delegation will discuss during the meeting the continued Israeli military attacks on southern Lebanon. He noted that these attacks represent Israel's political bankruptcy, particularly in light of world condemnation of Israel's stances which reject a just and lasting peace.

As for Lebanon's call for an emergency Arab League meeting to discuss the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir stressed Jordan's support for such a meeting, noting Jordan's concern for the safety of the Lebanese territory and demanding Arab and international support for Lebanon.

Buwayz, Abu-Jabir Comment on Peace Talks

NC0606083792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Statements by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents after Buwayz' arrival at Amman Airport on 5 June—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] [words indistinct] and the talks are passing through a delicate phase. It was necessary to unify our views and intensify the contacts to arrive at a common view to face this critical stage. As you know, the peace talks began a long time ago, and they are still far from achieving the desired basic and essential progress. Therefore, it was necessary for the brothers and us to meet in response to the invitation of his excellency the Jordanian foreign minister and to assess the past period and agree on a common view to deal with the coming stage.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, will you discuss the Israeli escalation in southern Lebanon at the Amman meeting?

[Buwayz] Although the Amman meeting will be devoted to discussing the bilateral peace talks, we will raise the issue of the south and the Israeli daily aggressions there. This issue will reflect and be closely linked with the bilateral talks. A large part of what is happening in the south is Israeli reaction to the embarrassment the Arab delegations to the talks have caused Israel.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] the escalation in southern Lebanon and the Israeli actions in the occupied Arab territories on the overall peace process?

[Buwayz] We think that the Israeli Government undoubtedly is trying to use the disturbances in the south and to escalate the situation in there in order to make it seem to the Israeli public as though the state of war still exists, a new war is imminent, and that perhaps a strong, extremist government is needed to protect them from these aggressions. As far as we are concerned, we regard what is happening in the south as an Israeli Government attempt to alarm the Israeli public and escalate the situation in order to turn the table in these talks.

But we fully realize that we, as Arabs, must deal with these talks with much care and shrewdness and act in the talks without consideration for the pressures on the ground. Our big mistake would be to submit to pressure and to withdraw from the talks.

[Correspondent] Mr. Foreign Minister, Lebanon has called for an emergency Arab League Council meeting to discuss the Israeli aggression. Does Jordan support this?

[Abu-Jabir] Yes, of course. Of course we support this, because we think that Lebanon's concerns are Jordan's concerns and the concerns of all the Arab nation.

[Correspondent] Can you tell us what the conference's agenda is?

[Abu-Jabir] His excellency the minister [Buwayz] has responded to this question precisely and clearly. Therefore, there is no need to repeat it.

[Correspondent] Has the fifth round of bilateral peace talks achieved its objectives?

[Abu-Jabir] If a person looks at the process from the standpoint of seven or eight months, he might reach certain conclusions which might not be completely accurate. But if he views the conflict as ideological, spanning at least 100 years, and as a military one spanning at least 40 years, he will arrive at the conclusion that the past

period is short and that it is not realistic to say or to expect 100 percent positive results. But we think that Israel will try, as his excellency the brother explained, to torpedo the process if it can.

[Correspondent] Has Jordan held contacts to stop the Israeli aggression against the south?

[Abu-Jabir] Jordan is always in contact with all friends and Arab brothers. We are truly pained by what is happening in Lebanon. We will discuss this matter during this meeting.

[Correspondent] Have you held contacts with the United States?

[Abu-Jabir] His excellency the minister is the guest [words indistinct] should be addressed to him. We welcome him [words indistinct].

Buwayz on Possible Israeli Attack

NC0706075692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The foreign ministers of the four Arab countries participating in the peace negotiations resumed their meetings in Amman a short while ago.

Our Amman correspondent Khalil Furayhan had the following to say:

[Begin recording] [Furayhan] The quadripartite conference of the Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanian and Palestinian foreign ministers resumed its work at the Plaza Hotel in Amman at 0900 today. The conferees will review the draft final statement on the outcome of the four-hour discussions held yesterday, which dealt with the situation in south Lebanon and the West Bank and with the means to coordinate the stands concerning the sixth round of negotiations in Rome, the date of which has not yet been set.

Before entering the conference hall, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz answered a question about the possibility of Israel launching an attack on civilians in the south within the next few days. He said:

[Buwayz] We already said that the stage through which we are passing, or at least the period until the Israeli elections, is a critical one. We must handle it with the greatest accuracy and clearest vision. We also said that the Israeli Government is trying to exploit the events in the south for election purposes in order to renew fear among the Israelis and thus to justify the installment of a radical government.

We submitted this issue during yesterday's meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the bilateral negotiations, and we will hold various contacts with the international quarters concerned with the issue. We also will deal with the issue in such a way as to deprive the Israeli enemy of any justification to provoke Lebanon or the other Arab countries in order to achieve his objectives.

[Furayhan] Minister Buwayz will meet with Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' at the end of today's meeting. They will discuss the latest developments in south Lebanon. Buwayz also will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and will convey to him an oral message from Lebanese President al-Hirawi. [end recording]

Lebanese Envoy Comments on Hostages

NC0706100992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The Amman Arab quadripartite meeting has adopted Lebanon's call for a ministerial meeting of the Arab League Council to discuss the situation in south Lebanon.

The final communique at the end of the meeting, which concluded before noon today, condemned the continuing Israeli operations against Lebanon. The communique expressed full support for the Lebanese State's efforts to liberate the Lebanese territories and confront the Israeli operations.

The communique, read by Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, called for implementing UN Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as Resolution 425 concerning south Lebanon with a view to establishing a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in the region.

The ministers asserted their eagerness to pursue the peace process through their insistence on regaining the occupied Arab territories.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said at a news conference that the situation in south Lebanon was discussed. He noted that the [Israeli] attacks are linked to three elements—Israeli elections, the peace conference, and certain security-military policies. He said the attacks also are related to reactions to Israel's relations with the international community.

Commenting on the issue of the two German hostages, Buwayz said the Lebanese people are the ones who pay the price in all aspects. He added: We regard ourselves morally responsible for what happened in the case of the two hostages. He pointed out that there is a political decision by a number of countries to release all hostages.

Notes Efforts To Free Hostages

JN0706135992 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The Lebanese foreign minister, Mr. Buwayz, today stressed that his country had spared no effort to win the release of the last remaining foreign hostages in Lebanon, saying two Germans would be released in a matter of days.

Foreign Minister Buwayz, currently in Amman for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers participating in the Middle East peace conference, said his government was in contact with more than one party and more than one country that has an influence on the kidnappers.

Buwayz Holds News Conference

NC0706123092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz held a news conference after the conclusion of the four cordon states' foreign ministers conference in Amman. He said that the quadripartite meeting paid due interest to the Israeli acts of aggression against southern Lebanon. He added: We discussed the link between the developments in southern Lebanon and the escalation of the situation in the occupied Arab territories. He pointed out that the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon is primarily meant to pave the way for a radical government to assume power in Israel, a government that considers itself a guarantor of Israel's security.

Buwayz said that every time the Israeli Government is embarrassed by international pressure on the need to respond to the premises of the peace conference, it escalates the situation in southern Lebanon to turn the tables and deflect international attention. Buwayz noted that the Amman meeting achieved tangible progress in enhancing Arab solidarity. The conference, he said, defined its goals and avoided one-upmanship and emotional outbursts. He said: We are now following a sound and genuine course of solidarity, noting that after the Arab League meeting, there is no objection to agreeing on an Arab summit meeting as a prelude to consolidating a new Arab solidarity.

On the issue of the two German hostages, Buwayz said that Lebanon is the primary hostage in this issue and that the Lebanese people pay the dearest price for this situation. He said: We will continue our contacts to find a quick solution to release all hostages. He disclosed that contacts are being made with more than one party and country which wield moral influence over the parties holding the hostages. He stressed that a number of countries decided the hostages need to be released. He said that the problem will be solved within days.

PLO Envoy Calls for 'General Elections'

JN0706190792 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Excerpts] At the conclusion of their meetings, the chief Arab delegates to the four-way conference convened press conferences. They hailed the Amman session as an impetus to increased Arab solidarity. [passage omitted]

PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh noted that energizing Arab solidarity calls for action on all levels. He stressed the need for an Arab stand vis-a-vis Israel's arbitrary practices in the occupied Arab territories.

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] We shall continue to press for general elections in the occupied territories. We will call upon the conference cosponsors, the United States in particular, to live up to their responsibilities and to oversee the vote directly. We will make similar approaches to international organizations, especially the United Nations and the Security Council. The Palestinian people are entitled to general elections as a democratic right. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Participation 'Not Discussed' at Meeting

JN0706062992 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab states participating in the bilateral peace negotiations this evening concluded the first session of meetings, which lasted more than three and a half hours. Another meeting will be held tomorrow morning, at the end of which a final statement will be issued on the outcome of the meetings and the subjects tackled.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir talked to journalists after the first session.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] You say there is agreement among the participating countries. Some countries, however, are participating in the multilateral talks while others refuse to take part. How can there be agreement?

[Abu-Jabir] The truth is that agreement, as I have said, is on the principles and bases that govern the entire peace process. Some parties continue to have their own opinion on the multilaterals. We respect their opinion and appreciate it. If these countries wish to change their position in the future, then that would be their affair. We do not intervene on this issue. There is agreement that the peace process must continue.

[Unidentified reporter] But, there is no unified opinion regarding participation in the multilaterals?

[Abu-Jabir] This issue was not discussed. Therefore, there is no unified or nonunified opinion. This issue was absolutely not discussed.

[Unidentified reporter] Following this four-way summit or meeting, will you present your suggestion to the co-sponsors regarding the proposed date for the....

[Abu-Jabir, interrupting] We did not discuss this issue. A number of meetings will be held. There is the Brazil meeting, then there are the holidays, the Istanbul meeting, and then a possible foreign ministers meeting on the Lebanese issue. Therefore, we did not discuss this issue. We will wait and see the developments in the coming weeks.

[Unidentified reporter] What about the situation in Gaza, and the Israeli siege imposed on Gaza?

[Abu-Jabir] We touched on this issue. We held the necessary discussion regarding this issue. [end recording]

Arab Foreign Ministers Hold Sideline Meetings

Prime Minister Receives Lebanese Envoy

JN0706141192 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received in his office today the Lebanese foreign minister, Faris Buwayz.

During the meeting, attended by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, bilateral cooperation and means of developing it were discussed. The two also discussed the conditions in south Lebanon, especially after the recurrent Israeli attacks against Lebanese citizens.

King Receives Lebanese Minister, Message

JN0706140792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a message from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi on bilateral relations and the current Arab situation. The message was conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz who met with his Majesty at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, Lebanese Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammas, and the Lebanese ambassador in Amman also attended the meeting.

King Receives al-Shar', Buwayz, 'Abd-Rabbuh

JN0706130492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. During the meeting, they reviewed developments in the peace process as well as the importance of coordination and consultations among the Arab brothers on every aspect pertaining to this process. Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir attended the meeting.

Captors of German Hostages Ready To Negotiate

NC0706164992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The kidnappers of the two German hostages said yesterday that they will respond to the release efforts. A Lebanese source in Beirut close to the negotiating participants said that nothing will hamper their release. He said that the Mujahidin for Freedom, believed to be close to the Hammadi family, has given up its demand for the prompt release of Muhammad and 'Abbas Hammadi, who are jailed in Germany.

Bonn does not want the release of the hostages to look like a deal has been made for the Hammadi's release. Our source, however, has said that Bonn has promised to take the humanitarian issue into account regarding the fate of the Hammadi brothers.

The Mujahidin for Freedom—which claimed the kidnapping of Thomas Kemptner, 30, and Heinrich Struebig, 51, on 16 May 1989—in a statement yesterday said that it will respond totally to efforts by mediators, particularly the Lebanese Government, Syria, and Iran. The statement said that the release date will be announced at the appropriate time after assurances have been made. The statement demanded tangible results on the fate of the Hammadi brothers, who are in a German jail on terrorism charges. The source said that for the first time, the kidnappers have given up the condition that the Hammadi brothers be released before the hostages.

Group Releases Statement

NC0706121092 Paris AFP in English 1150 GMT 7 Jun 92

[By Salim Yassine]

[Text] Beirut, June 7 (AFP) - The kidnappers of two Germans have confirmed they would release the last Western hostages in Lebanon and apparently dropped their demand for an exchange with two Lebanese jailed in Germany.

"Nothing can now stand in the way of their release," a source close to a Lebanese hostage negotiator told AFP on Sunday, a day after the kidnappers pledged to "respond positively" to mediation by Iran, Lebanon and Syria.

"The process is following a logical course toward a positive solution which will satisfy all the concerned parties and the release will take place after working out guarantees," the Mujahidin for Freedom said.

It said in an Arabic-language statement received by a Western news agency in Beirut that the group would reveal the date of the release of aid workers Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig "at the appropriate time".

The Mujahidin for Freedom insisted on "secure, concrete results" over the fate of two Shiite Muslim brothers jailed in Germany on terrorism convictions, Muhammad and 'Abbas Hammadi.

But in contrast to earlier statements, the group linked to the Hammadi family issued no explicit demand for the immediate release of the brothers in exchange for the Germans.

The latest communique followed a spate of reports that the aid workers would soon be freed.

A senior German official in Bonn said Thursday they could be set free within 10 days but he stressed the government had not made any concession to the kidnappers over the Hammadi affair.

On Sunday, the Foreign Ministry said it had "no indication" of an imminent release but added the government would study the new statement as well a photograph of the hostages that was released simultaneously.

But Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, whose country is eager to close the hostage file, was less cautious in his reaction. "Only technical questions remain and they can be resolved within a few days," he said.

The source close to the Lebanese negotiator said Bonn wanted to avoid any appearance of a deal but had made a commitment "to allow for humanitarian considerations" in determining the fate of the Hammadi brothers.

The kidnappers want Iran to follow up efforts to secure their early release, the source added, declining to be named.

Their statement came three days after a visit to Beirut by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akhbar Velayati, and after a Lebanese Government source said Iran had urged the Hammadi family to free the Germans within two weeks.

Under the German legal code, Muhammad Hammadi would have to serve at least 15 years of his life term while 'Abbas must stay in prison for two-thirds of his 13-year sentence.

But non-Germans can in theory be released earlier to be expelled from the country. 'Abbas would have to give up his German nationality to benefit from such a move.

Struebig, 51, and Kemptner, 30, were seized near the south Lebanon port of Sidon in May 1989. They worked for the humanitarian group ASME-Humanitas.

Buwayz—Germans To Be Free in 'Days'

JN0606192292 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1907 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that the two German hostages in Lebanon could be freed within days.

He said he was confident that the decision to release the two Germans had been taken and that only technical matters remain.

The Lebanese minister's remarks were the highest level confirmation on the imminent release of the last Western hostages in Lebanon.

Buwayz Comments on Hostages

NC0506114692 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1108 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said today that the cordon states foreign ministers meeting in Amman will discuss the peace negotiations and the possibility of calling on the Arab League to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the ongoing developments in southern Lebanon.

Following his meeting today with the Lebanese negotiating delegation led by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Buwayz emphasized the resistance's role in south Lebanon. He attached special importance to Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Lebanon.

Speaking about the two German hostages, Buwayz said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] Regarding the issue of the two German hostages, we believe the Lebanese Government and people shoulder a moral responsibility regarding this because the kidnapping was committed on Lebanese territory. Therefore, [words indistinct] without taking account of economic, aid or other considerations. We believe we must do all we can to resolve this issue and bring about the release of these hostages, who have nothing to do with Lebanese politics. We ask any friendly country with moral influence in Lebanon to help in any way they can to solve this issue. Among these countries are the Islamic Republic of Iran, which wields moral influence and can use it to help the Lebanese Government settle this issue. [end recording]

PFLP-GC Surprised at World 'Silence' on Raids

NC0506120392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] The Lebanese command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] has issued a statement saying that today's raid wounded three children and severely damaged houses in a densely populated area. The statement expressed surprise at the world's silence and at the U.S. Administration's unlimited and absolute support for Israel. It called on the powers to reconsider their political options.

Resistance Attacks Joint Israeli-SLA Position

NC0506160992 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] The national resistance said its fighters attacked a position in Tallat Rshaf manned jointly by the Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] with machine guns and rockets this afternoon. It added that a clash took place between a resistance group and the elements manning the position.

Foreign Minister Defends Resistance to Israel

NC0506170292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz held a news conference before leaving for Amman this evening. He stated that during the meeting of the foreign ministers of the cordon states to be held in Amman tomorrow, he will present Lebanon's request for an emergency Arab League meeting to discuss ways of bolstering Lebanon's steadfastness in facing Israeli aggression against the south. Buwayz pointed out that he and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati had reached an almost unified assessment regarding the situation in the south and regional issues. He noted that it is now clear that there is tangible and fundamental progress in relations between Lebanon and Iran.

Asked about the fact that Israel holds the Lebanese Government responsible for what is happening in the south, Buwayz said: Since the Lebanese state and people do not possess any clear-cut commitment that Israel will withdraw, nobody can ask us to submit and accept the fait accompli, that is, the Israeli occupation. He added: We believe that confronting this occupation is a legitimate right acknowledged by human rights and the UN Charter. In principle, he added, nobody can ask Lebanon to submit and accept the fait accompli. As far as putting this principle into practice goes, there are technicalities, circumstances, timing, and a method to get the desired results without causing the homeland any unnecessary burdens.

Buwayz stressed that the Lebanese state is the first to resist in the south. It is the one that sent the elite of its Army brigades to the south to stand in the same trench with the people and it defends the people when they come under Israeli attacks. He pointed out that the state, through its institutions, is rebuilding the destroyed schools, hospitals, and houses and is allocating considerable funds to back up the steadfastness of the people in the south. He pointed out that the real resistance is to keep the people on their land.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1615 GMT on 5 June reports: "The foreign minister left at 1900 this evening to take part in the quadripartite Arab meeting that will be held in Amman tomorrow."]

SLA Troops Kidnap Lebanese Soldier Near Border

NC0506182492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Citing security sources, REUTER has reported that members of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] kidnapped Lebanese Army soldier Ahmad Husayn Abu-Dillah, 19, on the edge of the security zone today.

REUTER added that the SLA troops kidnapped the soldier, a citizen of Yuhmur, while he was driving to 'Arnun.

Israeli-SLA Forces Shell Towns; Gunboats Fire

NC0606062992 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Israeli Army and South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions in al-Qantarah last night shelled Tulin, Qabrikha, and Wadi Hujayr in al-Nabatiyah. The Israeli and SLA positions in (?al-Turha), and al-Suwayda' earlier directed machine gun fire at the outskirts of Kafr Rumman.

UN sources, meanwhile, reported that Israeli gunboats raked the southern coast with gunfire. The sources said there were no casualties.

Mine Blast in Jazzin Wounds 2 SLA Militia

NC0606083492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] According to a security report from the south this morning, a mine exploded in the Kafr Falus area, Jazzin district, at 0800 today wounding two members of the pro-Israeli agent militia.

Israeli Forces Shell Iqlim al-Tuffah Villages

NC0606112692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] The occupation forces this morning shelled villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah district. The agent militiamen opened machine gun fire for 30 minutes from their positions on the Hasbayya front against Mimis junction and Jabal al-Dahr hills, setting crops on fire.

Israeli helicopters flew over Marj 'Uyun, Hasbayya, and al- 'Urqub.

Eastern Sidon Under 'Fierce' Artillery Fire

NC0606201292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] The Kafr Falus-Anan-Rum axis in the eastern Sidon region has been the scene of an artillery exchange since 2000 this evening.

Reports indicate that the Jun area of the Awwali Valley came under fierce artillery shelling this evening from occupation and Agent position in ('Aynat), (Kfaray), and the hills opposite the town. A number of houses burned down and electricity in the town has been cut.

Israeli planes are currently flying over the eastern Sidon region and dropping flares. One of the flares fell in a district of Sidon.

Also, the town of Jarju' and its surrounding hills came under heavy shelling just after 2000 today. The shelling came from the occupation positions in [word indistinct].

SLA Clashes With 'Armed Men' on Sujud Hill

NC0706093092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] REUTER reports that a clash took place this morning between armed men and South Lebanese Army [SLA] personnel manning a position on Sujud Hill. The agency did not report any casualties.

Israeli Mortar Fire Hits Wadi Hujayr

NC0706053492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Wadi Hujayr came under Israeli mortar fire at around 2000 yesterday. Israeli artillery fired flares which illuminated the skies of Bra'shit and Israeli troops raked Qabrikha with large- caliber machine guns.

The artillery bombardment yesterday covered Iqlim al-Tuffah and Jun Town in Iqlim al-Kharrub following the death of two South Lebanese Army members in an explosion in Kafr Falus.

Israeli 'Provocations' Continue 8 Jun

NC0806112492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Israeli provocations and acts of aggression have continued. Israeli warplanes flew over south Lebanon this morning on reconnaissance sorties. Helicopters were seen flying between the occupied Palestinian territory and the airstrips Israel has built in Marj 'Uyun and al-Khiyam in the border strip. The helicopters are bringing advanced military equipment and their crews are establishing several observation posts overlooking the al-Khardali bridge, al-'Ayshiyah, and al-Jarmaq areas.

Defense Minister al-Murr on Israeli Attacks

NC0606131192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has affirmed that he supports holding parliamentary elections after the Interior Ministry has completed preparations for them. He noted that the cabinet will discuss the issue within the next two weeks. He said that the decision to hold the elections is in the hands of the Chamber of Deputies, however, because it is the one that has to cut short its term and approve the elections bill. If the Chamber decides not to cut its term, there will be no elections, he said. Al-Murr affirmed that the elections will be free and honest. He stressed the need not to include the issue of the displaced in the elections campaign and the need to solve this issue as soon as possible because it is a basic part of the national accord document.

During an interview with Radio Free Lebanon and the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation during the program "An Interview With an Official," al-Murr said in response

to a question about the Syrian withdrawal: Who said they will not withdraw? When September comes and the issue is raised in the political institutions, specifically in the cabinet, the decision will be made in light of the circumstances. Al-Murr affirmed that the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon will take place when the Lebanese Government requests it, and he maintained that this issue has nothing to do with the Lebanese Army's equipment or readiness. The Army must carry out orders, irrespective of anything else. He said in this regard:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Regarding the issue of the Army's readiness, you have already said that the Army might not be ready to deploy or to assume its task in September. How ready is the Army today, especially in view of the aid which has started coming or which you are trying to secure?

[Al-Murr] First, I never said that the Army is not ready. My statements were distorted by some media for their own reasons. I said in these statements that we are in the process of equipping the Army. I was talking about equipping the Army, and I will repeat what I said. I said that there are friendly states which were supposed to assist Lebanon. I named these states at the time—France and the United States—because I consider them friendly states. They were supposed to assist us, and they have not assisted us with anything up to now. This is true for now; I hope that they will assist us next month.

[Correspondent] Just promises for aid? Are you holding contacts?

[Al-Murr] No. The other correspondent asked me about the Army's readiness, and I am answering him. I am explaining. I did not say that the Army is not ready to go to the south or not ready to deploy here or there. I said that we are preparing the Army by increasing its numbers to continue its deployment. But it needs equipment. To get equipment, you need either aid, loans, or outright purchase of equipment. If the decision is to buy, it will burden the Treasury, and this will affect the dollar exchange rate. We are trying to avoid asking the treasury for $300 million to buy trucks, spare parts, etc. We are avoiding asking for additional budgets to equip the Army. We are turning to our friends. We are telling them: If you do not want to assist us, then give us a loan to be repayed over four or five years—not over 20 years. Lebanon is financially respected in the world. Despite what has happened to it over the past 16 years, Lebanon's name is still respected. I know this not from my position as defense minister, but as a businessman. I know that Lebanon's name is still respected in the financial and monetary markets. We resorted to friends to assist us in equipping the Army with trucks, jeeps, and so forth—all the equipment which the Army lacks. My statement definitely had a purpose. We were sending out feelers. We were hoping that the leaders, who tried to interpret the statement differently, would express solidarity with my position and would press the friendly states to speed up their assistance to the Army. [end recording]

Al-Murr believes that the Army is entering a difficult stage and must be prepared for any possibility, especially in the south. He said: If Resolution 425 is implemented, the Army must be ready to take over the Israeli positions.

He denied that any operations have been launched against Israel from the areas the Army occupies in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Regarding expectations that the situation in the south will escalate, he said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Murr] These expectations are justified. They are a result of the international and regional atmosphere, as well as the Israeli enemy's behavior.

There are elections coming up in Israel, so the Israeli Government will be engaged in one-upmanship. So the expectations of the president, the French ambassador, the average citizen, or even those of us from the military are not based on concrete information that something is going to happen tomorrow, but on the atmosphere in the south; on the reconnaissance flights and air strikes. Like the president, we expect that this escalation will continue at least until the Israeli elections. Therefore, our expectations, based on certain facts and events, enable us to consider what arrangements we could make.

The foreign minister is doing his job very well. He is in contact with the ambassadors of the big powers, especially the U.S. ambassador. The Foreign Ministry is urging the Arab League to take a stand. These are the diplomatic steps. On the ground, the Army has orders to respond to any exchange of fire in the areas where it is deployed. The Army's presence among the people guarantees that they will remain steadfast, and will not pack their bags and seek refuge elsewhere because of the constant fighting. When they see the Lebanese Army next to them, the people are reassured that the Army supports them. The Army is very close to the people in the region. Not a single soldier has run away. On the contrary, they are standing in the front lines, alongside the people.

This is what the government can do. Although the expectations are unfortunately bitter, we hope that they are false and that security will prevail.

[Correspondent] The Israelis are saying that there are some so-called terrorist locations in the areas where the Army is deployed.

[Al-Murr] First, these people are not terrorists. This is what the Israelis call them, and the Israelis can believe what they want. Anyone engaged in resistance operations cannot be called a terrorist; he is a resistance fighter, opposing the occupation. I can assure you of one thing: The resistance will come to an end only when the Israeli occupation ends. If Israel truly wants the resistance operations against it to stop, there is an easy solution. It should comply with Resolution 425 and withdraw, allowing the Lebanese Army to deploy in the areas Israel currently occupies. I guarantee that nothing would happen to Israel.

[Correspondent] What is your response to the U.S. ambassador's assertion that the Lebanese Government needs to choose between the militia and the legitimate government?

[Al-Murr] The Lebanese Government has already opted for the legitimate government. This is why it dissolved the militias. [end recording]

The defense minister called for giving the new government a chance. He said he wished that Dr. Samir Ja'ja' had stayed in the government, because he represents a Christian influence.

Regarding Brigadier General Sami Minqarah's [minister of tourism] stand, al-Murr said that the issue is being dealt with. He added: I believe he will end his boycott of the government.

Al-Murr said that the Phalangist Party elections are not the government's concern. The government, however, has a responsibility to provide security for its citizens He said: This is what we are doing. He pointed out that the Army has increased its roadblocks. Moreover, he has made a decision to stop issuing weapons licenses. Al-Murr added: The claim that we support one party against the other is not true, because the two parties are friends. Whoever interferes in something that is not their business will hear things that they do not like.

Hizballah's Qasim, Other Shiites on Resistance

NC0606080892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has said: We are the sons of Imam Khomeyni. We have learned to live without bowing to the arrogant, to be submissive to God and strong against those who are arrogant, and to pursue our policy until victory or martyrdom.

He said all talk of establishing Israel in our region is rejected, because we will not accept occupation. Everything happening in the region is due to the continued Zionist occupation. He stressed that the region will remain ablaze as long as hostile Israel exists. The road to peace, he said, is through the elimination of occupation, which cannot be attained through negotiations that perpetuate occupation. He added that negotiations lead to accords among regimes, but the people reject those who give up their sanctities and dignity. He said no one can defy the people's will.

The Hizballah deputy secretary general asked the Lebanese State to be in line with the resistance, because resistance is part of the people. His eminence said: The resistance's weapon is struggle, and the people are the claimants of the land. The two cannot be separated. He who wants to side with the people must side with the resistance, with its weapons, and with the steadfastness of the citizens.

He added: The United States' account with our people will be very severe, because through its intervention in our region, it causes pain, destruction, and wars. Let the United States take its hands off Lebanon and the region and cease intervening in our affairs. When this happens, we will have the best situation.

His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli meanwhile has affirmed that the Lebanese people reject humiliation and negotiations with the Zionist enemy. He said that this people will continue to fight and defend itself with honor and dignity despite the severe hardship it is suffering.

Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan has criticized Arab and Islamic silence toward what is taking place in the south. He urged Arab and Islamic countries to move to put an end to the Israeli acts of aggression and to pressure Israel to implement Resolution 425.

He said: There is a major conspiracy. We must preserve our land by holding fast, surviving, and confronting the Israeli aggression. Israel will continue to shell our villages and people until the Israeli elections are over.

He called for enhancing steadfastness by building clinics, hospitals and shelters in the areas adjacent to the occupied strip.

His Eminence Muharram al-'Arifi, secretary general of the Islamic Front, has denounced the Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon. In a statement yesterday, he said the Zionist enemy will not halt its aggression for a single moment because its moves and strategy aim to establish the state of Greater Israel, which will only be built through more terrorism and acts of aggression.

Phalangist Party Leaders Elected

Jazzar, Mu'arbis Named

NC0606191092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Antoine Jazzar and Antoine Mu'arbis were today elected chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of the Phalangist Party's Consultative Committee. They were unopposed. [passage omitted]

Sa'adah Reelected

NC0806112192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1047 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Here is a report just in from the news desk: Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah has been reelected as party leader by a majority of 60. Dr. Samir Ja'ja' received 53 votes.

Al-Hirawi Stresses Solidarity, National Accord

NC0606195392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi said in Beirut that we are all facing a number of tests and can only be met through solidarity.

He asked: How can we be punished for our commitment to Resolution 425? He stressed that we will not compromise our independence and will not bargain over our dignity. He added: Let them withdraw from our territory; then our commitment to international charters can be tested.

Speaking at the Holy Spirit University-al-Kaslik, al-Hirawi said: We need to complete implementation of the national accord document both in letter and in spirit, because it is an indivisible whole. The return of the displaced persons to their houses and villages is not merely a sacred right that the state owes them, but is also the final embodiment of the unity of Lebanese determination and a practical recognition of the success of the peace process.

Al-Hirawi added: We are facing a number of tests that can only be confronted through solidarity, equilibrium, and the decisionmaking process. There are resources and qualified people in Lebanon which must have a role during the phase of reconstruction and peace. The war of slogans and sects is over and the war for the sake of the state has begun. It is a war against corruption, violation of the Constitution and the law, and personal gain at the expense of the national interest.

Prime Minister al-Sulh Returns From Damascus

NC0606195492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh returned to Beirut this evening after holding talks with high-ranking Syrian officials, including President Hafiz al-Asad.

Upon his departure from Damascus, Prime Minister al-Sulh said: These historic meetings between the fraternal people of Syria and Lebanon are the first guarantee for any pan-Arab action in this region. We seek to strengthen and entrench our relations.

He added: In Lebanon we continue to suffer from the Israeli siege and attacks. No one helps us, gives us moral support, or backs the steadfastness of our people in the south except for our sister, Syria.

Al-Murr Returns From Talks With Syrian Officials

NC0806062792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr returned to Beirut from Damascus early this morning following talks with Syrian officials.

Al Sa'ud 'Massacre' of Pilgrims Recalled

NC0806083692 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Political Commentary: "The March of Disavowal"]

[Excerpts] The march of disavowal is one of the new terms that came into existence at the era of the blessed Islamic revolution. It is one of the phenomena in language, relations, and alphabet, the foundations of which were laid down by Imam Khomeyni, may God sanctify his soul. It set the stage for a new Islamic renaissance, or rather a new Islamic age, replete with the spirit of the first hegira century, which transferred the world before the eyes of the prophet, prayers be upon him and his folk, from darkness to light. [passage omitted]

On this very day, the most horrendous massacre in the history of the dignified Kaaba and Medina took place during the march of disavowal. More than 400 innocent victims among the guests of God Almighty were killed by the Al Sa'ud family in cold blood at U.S. instructions for the mere guilt of saying God is our lord. No kind of condemnation will serve the purpose here. If the Islamic nation were healthy, the Saudi Government should have been boycotted and overthrown and Mecca should have been opened once again [reference to first opening of Mecca by Prophet Muhammad in 7th century], something that the great Imam Khomeyni hinted at and threatened at the time. But things followed the course of choosing the lesser of two evils and the Islamic Republic was patient until it revived the hajj according to its own concept, thus preserving the march of disavowal without arousing the concern of the pro-America Wahhabite Saudi murderers.

On this same day five years ago, the blood of 400 people in Medina was witness to the treachery of the Al Sa'ud's, and thus the Al Sa'ud family is sentenced to death and extinction. Today these people believe that the issue is forgotten, but alas; time will not cloak the horrendous nature of the crime, the same as deviation will not stop the greater march of disavowal, as embodied by the life of every genuine Muhammadian Muslim.

Foreign Minister Buwayz Returns From Jordan

NC0806102192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz returned to Beirut today after participating in the Amman meeting of the countries taking part in the bilateral negotiations with Israel. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Affirms 'Constant Support' for Lebanon

JN0606161292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Excerpt] At 1330 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad met with Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended.

During the meeting, they reviewed some regional issues, the situation in southern Lebanon, and bilateral ties. His excellency the president affirmed Syria's constant support for Lebanon in all areas that could help it entrench peace, safeguard its unity and territorial integrity, and realize the tasks dictated by national reconciliation.

For his part, al-Sulh thanked Syria for the contributions it has been making to Lebanon and stressed the strong brotherly ties existing between the two fraternal countries. Al-Sulh as well as Khaddam and al-Zu'bi had lunch with his excellency the president. Al-Sulh arrived in Damascus at 0930 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar'—Syria Not Seeking 'Confrontation'

JN0806060892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] In a news conference held in Amman yesterday, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' spoke about Israeli provocations of Syria through its constant bombardment of southern Lebanon. He said: Undoubtedly, the Israeli escalation against Lebanon has several objectives. Among them are achieving electoral gains for the Shamir government, and placing the region on the brink of a war. As we have said and affirmed in Syria, we do not seek such a confrontation, but if it is imposed on us, we will face it with all our power. We will not stand idle.

Al-Shar' added that the Israeli raids on southern Lebanon exacerbate tension in the region toward a confrontation. He stressed that killing innocent people in Lebanon is enough evidence that Israel's intention is to increase tension in the region.

Al-Shar' ruled out the convening of an expanded Arab summit at present, saying that this is because Arab wounds have not yet healed. He explained that President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak are considering convening an Arab summit of the Damascus Declaration member states as a step toward restoring Arab solidarity. He noted that the Arab quadripartite meeting, which concluded its work in Amman earlier yesterday, stressed the importance of Arab solidarity and of supporting the peace process. Al-Shar' said: On the whole, we are satisfied with the results of this meeting.

Returns From Amman Meeting

JN0706192192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the delegation accompanying him returned to Damascus today after participating in the four-way coordination meeting among the Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese foreign ministers and the head of the PLO Political Department, which was held in Amman on 6 and 7 June.

Upon leaving Amman, al-Shar' was seen off by Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, the Syrian ambassador in Amman, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

Lebanon's Prime Minister Arrives for Talks 6 Jun

JN0606090592 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Damascus, 6 Jun (SANA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh arrived in Damascus at 0930 this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi led those who met him at the western entrance of Damascus. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi and al-Sulh held a meeting at the Prime Ministry headquarters during which they discussed brotherly relations based on cooperation and coordination between both brotherly countries and reinforcing this cooperation in all fields.

TISHRIN Comments on al-Asad-Mubarak Talks

JN0406080792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 4 Jun 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN discusses the talks held between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak. It says that these talks have attracted the attention of all observers and elaborately dealt with ways to promote the Arab state of affairs. The paper adds: In both his continuing contacts and his recent Gulf tour, President Hafiz al-Asad has worked to strengthen determination and muster capabilities. If things continue along as they have been going, then the current Arab situation will constitute a serious disaster. Sincere Arabs, therefore, have no other option but to adopt a serious and responsible position.

TISHRIN adds: The joint news conference given by Presidents al- Asad and Mubarak made it clear that Syria and Egypt are prepared to discuss ways to implement the Damascus Declaration at any level. What matters is to achieve pan-Arab solidarity, to change the deteriorated Arab situation, and to rise up to the level of existing ambitions and challenges.

Reportage on Visit by Cypriot Interior Minister

Meets With President

JN0406133092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad met with Cypriot Interior Minister Khristodoulos Veniamin at noon today. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah. Discussion focused on bilateral relations.

Meets With al-Shar'

JN0206195292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Cypriot Interior Minister Khristodoulos Veniamin in the presence of Major General Ahmad Sa'id Salih, assistant foreign minister, and Muwaffaq Nassar, director of the West Europe Desk at the Foreign Ministry, this afternoon. They discussed the Cypriot issue, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Israeli attacks on Lebanon. They also talked about bilateral relations and ways to bolster them.

Official talks between the Syrian Arab side, headed by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah, and the Cypriot side, led by Interior Minister Khristodoulos Veniamin, began this morning in the presence of the members of the delegations representing the two countries.

Talks centered on existing cooperation between Syria and Cyprus within the purview of the two Interior Ministries, as well as on ways to bolster this cooperation. They also reviewed what has been implemented from the 1991 cooperation protocol signed between the two ministries.

The two sides stressed the need to exchange information, expertise, and delegations and to improve current cooperation in the area of combating crime in general, and drug-related crimes in particular. The two sides agreed on the need to continue working together to reach the highest levels of cooperation.

The two delegations later discussed the working paper of their talks in preparation for endorsing it and signed the executive program for future action. Moreover, the two sides agreed on issues of mutual interest.

For his part, the Cypriot interior minister expressed his pleasure with this important meeting. He thanked the Ministry of Interior for the hospitality he and his delegation have been accorded in Damascus. He praised the friendship and cooperation existing between Cyprus and Syria. He also expressed his great appreciation of Syria's major role in the region under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Talks Conclude 3 Jun

JN0406050192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus—Official talks between the Syrian Arab side, headed by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah, and the Cypriot side, led by Interior Minister Khristodoulos Veniamin, concluded this afternoon.

During this final session, the two sides signed the minutes of an implementation program for cooperation between the two ministries in the coming stage. They also exchanged the ratification documents for the cooperation agreement signed between the two ministries in Damascus in 1989.

The two ministers, Harbah and Veniamin, later exchanged cordial speeches on the occasion. They stressed the need to bolster cooperation and to expand relations between the two ministries within the framework of the agreement signed in Damascus in 1989 and the protocol signed in Nicosia in 1991.

Speaking on his own behalf, as well as in the name of his delegation and the Cypriot people, the Cypriot interior minister concluded his speech by expressing great appreciation for President Hafiz al-Asad and the Arab people in Syria.

Bahraini Information Minister Arrives in Damascus

Hails Damascus Declaration

JN0206203692 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Damascus, 2 Jun (SANA)—Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al- Mu'ayyad, Bahraini minister of information, culture, and tourism, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus at 1700 today on a three-day visit to Syria. The guest minister was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman. [passage omitted]

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, al-Mu'ayyad said: I am pleased to be in this hospitable country and to convey the greetings of the amir of Bahrain to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. I am pleased to stress that Bahrain—amir, government, and people—harbor appreciation and love for the president and for the Syrian people. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Damascus declaration, the guest minister said: The Damascus Declaration is excellent and still stands. We fully support it. I believe that from the first moment Bahrain has voiced its support for this political declaration. It expresses a position that we in the Gulf feel, given that the Arab nation was following a dangerous course at the time. Arab solidarity might be given a fresh impetus through this declaration. I believe that we must protect this declaration. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi Receives al-Mu'ayyad

JN0406132192 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0844 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus, 4 Jun (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al- Mu'ayyad and the members of the cultural and media delegation accompanying him at 0900 this morning. Information Minister Muhammad Salman and Bahrain's ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, the visiting minister conveyed Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah's regards and best wishes to al-Zu'bi, who in turn requested that he convey his greetings and best wishes to his Bahraini counterpart.

Al-Zu'bi welcomed al-Mu'ayyad and the members of the Bahraini delegation, which comprises cultural and media figures from the brotherly country. He emphasized the essential role being assumed by the Arab media to enhance political, economic, and social awareness; to unify the pan-Arab vision; to bolster cultural ties; and to consolidate the sincere steps being taken to bring about a stronger and more comprehensive Arab solidarity in the face of the challenges now confronting the Arab nation, the foremost being that of the Zionists. He stressed the importance of developing brotherly relations between Syria and Bahrain in all fields.

The prime minister explained the political and economic policy Syria has adopted under President Hafiz al-Asad to firmly establish the bases of a democratic system and to enhance economic and social development in the industrial, agricultural, and services fields, as well as increase investment prospects to local and Arab investors.

The Bahraini minister and members of the accompanying media and cultural delegation thanked the prime minister for the brotherly accord they have received in their country, Syria.

They also praised Syria's accomplishments and pan-Arab role under President Hafiz al-Asad. They emphasized the need to increase Arab meetings and to develop steps that will lead to Arab solidarity. They also stressed the need for bilateral cooperation in all fields.

During this meeting, al-Zu'bi replied to questions posed by the Bahraini cultural and media figures on a number of political issues, as well as economic, cultural, and information matters. He expressed the Syrian Arab people's love for the people of fraternal Bahrain.

Media Cooperation Discussed

JN0306061992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Damascus—A round of talks between Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman and Bahraini Information and Culture Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad was held at the Information Ministry at 2000 today. The talks were attended by the assistant information minister, the directors general of information institutions, senior Information Ministry officials, the delegation accompanying the Bahraini information minister, and the Bahraini ambassador in Damascus.

The two sides evaluated cooperation in the field of information between Syria and Bahrain, and discussed ways to promote this cooperation and find local alternatives to foreign media so as to confront the Western cultural invasion. A plan for media coordination and joint action was also discussed. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Uzbeks Storm Ettehad Quarters in Kabul

BK0606114992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 6 (AFP)—Uzbek miltiamen stormed a state-owned film complex here Saturday and disarmed renegade Pashtun fighters after an assassination attempt on the militia's main commander left two of his bodyguards wounded.

Militia sources said at least 40 fighters of the renegade Ettehad-e Eslami housed in the Afghan film complex were disarmed after the overnight attack on a convoy of Uzbek General 'Abdol Majid Khan.

"We are holding them and after investigation will leave most of them, as only four or five were involved in the attack," Uzbek General Nawab Khan told AFP.

Majid Khan, who was unhurt in the shootout, is the deputy of General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, who claims a total strength of 160,000 ruthless fighting men.

Dostam turned the tide against the former communist government when he joined hands with the mojahedin in March, and since April 28 has been propping up the interim government of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi.

The shootout was the first involving a senior militia commander in battle-torn Kabul since the April takeover of the city.

Nawab Khan did not specify whether there had been any resistance at the film complex in the diplomatic enclave of Wazir Akbar Khan by the Ettehad, who are currently obeying a government enforced cease-fire after four-days of pitched battles with their rivals, the Hezb-e Wahdat.

The general also confirmed that a detachment of 200 more Uzbeks had arrived by air from northern Afghanistan to reinforce the 15,000 currently in the city under the command of Majid.

The Uzbeks have said they have 10,000 reinforcements ready to fly to Kabul from the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif if they are needed, but said two days ago they had sufficient strength in the city for the time being.

Cease-Fire Holds Amid Mounting Tension

BK0606111792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1042 GMT 6 Jun 92

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, June 6 (AFP)—Tank-mounted Uzbek militia and government forces supervised a fragile cease-fire Saturday between two warring mojahedin groups in Kabul where four days of fighting has left hundreds of casualties.

But tension brewed in the capital's western districts where the heavily armed fighters belonging to rival groups from different Islamic sects remained positioned eyball-to-eyeball, witnesses said.

Uzbek militia loyal to the interim Islamic government, mounted on T-72 tanks formed a buffer between the traditionally hostile groups and government troops were on the move to help enforce the shaky truce.

Fighting between the pro-Iran Hezb-e Wahdat Shiite fighters and the Saudi-funded Sunni Ettehad-e Eslami (Muslim Unity) mojahedin has left up to 100 dead and hundreds of others wounded and missing since it broke out Tuesday.

The four-day battle in Kabul destroyed scores of houses, brought down power pylons, and gutted several shopping arcades in Shiite-dominated Karte Se, Kote Sanghi and Karte Char districts [words indistinct] Red Cross hospital was hit.

"We have asked them to remove their heavy weapons from the city," said a source from Defence Minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud's Shura-e-Nazar (security council), but there was no sign that the feuding groups had removed their artillery, mortars and tanks positioned across the west of the city.

"We are the Wahdat," said a soldier guarding a street in the area. But half a kilometer (half-mile) away, the Ettehad fighters had tanks posted at intersections with portraits of their leader 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf tacked to the armor.

Most shops in Kabul remained shut with the Shiite Hazaras who run many of them fleeing the city to escape mass abductions by the Pashtun-speaking Ettehad troops.

"We are not going to allow them to divide Afghanistan. They may be divided among themselves but we will not allow them to do this to our country," said Lieutenant General Akram Hamra, an Uzbek commander whose men helped topple the communist regime in Kabul in April.

"We have enough arms and ammunition to fight for 10 more years," said Hamra, whose unit was playing a major role in Saturday's buffer operation.

However military trucks belonging to the rival sides continued to move throughout the city amid fears the two sides were planning a major showdown for supremacy in Kabul.

The Hezb-e Wahdat, which refuses to participate in the government without high representation, Saturday said it had released all the Pashtuns it had taken prisoner.

"We have released all prisoners of war but the Ettehad is still holding some of ours," said the Shiite group's

political officer Karim Khalili, adding that many of the Shiites had been tortured during their three-day detention.

Officials of the caretaker government of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi confirmed the release of a last batch of 300 Pashtun hostages Saturday by the Wahdat, an ally of a northern Afghan military coalition which backs the interim administration.

"We can only keep our fingers crossed that Saturday does not turn into another day of fighting," said an Asian diplomat, noting the two sides had so far spurned the government's pleas to disarm.

Three ceasefires between the Wahdat and the Ettehad have collapsed during the past four days and most diplomats and mojahedin agreed that Saturday's lull was unlikely to hold [word indistinct] both sides accuse each other of committing atrocities, looting and violation of other military norms, though the commanders on both sides say privately that most of the fighters were acting on their own initiative.

Most Afghan Shiites come from five neglected central Afghan provinces known as Hazarajat, and are a minority among the country's estimated 14 million people, including in Kabul where they are generally identified as the city's blue-collar workforce.

Rabbani Forming Coalition Peacekeeping Force

BK0706101092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 7 (AFP)—Top Afghan leader Borhanoddin Rabbani has ordered the raising of a combined mojahedin force to combat the sectarian fighting in Kabul.

In a statement late Saturday, the high-profile leader, who heads a 10-member Mojahedin council which will take power June 28 from the present caretaker administration, also said he was saddened by the bloody sectarian war that has raged in the city for four days.

Fresh fighting broke out early Sunday in the city's diplomatic district of Wazir Akbar Khan in which tanks fired at least two salvoes, residents said.

Details of the fighting were not known but a ceasefire enforced by government forces Saturday between Hezb-e Wahdat Shiites and Ettehad-e Eslami Sunnis was generally holding firm in the battle-weary city.

More than 100 people have died and as many as 3,000 others taken hostage by the rival groups in the factional fighting that flared up Tuesday.

The fighting between the eight-faction Wahdat and the Ettehad headed by 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf also left about 400 people injured.

"We regret the events that have taken place in Kabul," Rabbani said on behalf of the leadership council.

"The regretful events were not a decision of either leaders or cadres of the two sides...it was a conflict of irresponsible individuals among the two sides," he said.

"We express sorrow and we want all parties to observe the ceasefire sincerely," said Rabbani in his statement, which was translated for reporters Sunday.

Rabbani said a combined force of all Mojahedin parties was being formed to enforce the ceasefire.

"The Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior will raise the joint force to maintain security in the city and only jehadi (Islamic warrior) parties will be asked to join the coalition," he said.

He did not say if the Wahdat and the Ettehad would also participate in the coalition, but officials said every party, barring representatives of the ousted communist regime, would have security responsibilities.

The Wahdat has shown little interest in joining the caretaker administration, saying it wants greater representation in the 51-member interim government headed by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi.

The Shiites, coming mainly from the five central Afghan provinces, hold around 140 government buildings including ministries and a Scud missile base, and say they can arm up to 250,000 members of their minority sect in Kabul.

Holdout Mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and other Mojahedin factions also occupy several military units and official complexes.

Rabbani said the new all-Mojahedin military force would vacate government installations and buildings being occupied by fighters, but did not specify when the thorny operation would begin.

He also lashed out at reports of the presence here of foreign military advisers who helped rival sects during the fighting.

"No foreign military force has a right to intervene in our affairs. If someone does, then we will take action," Rabbani said, angrily referring to the reports of Arab advisors helping the Saudi-funded Ettehad.

The Pashtun-speaking Sunni warriors have accused the Iran-backed Wahdat of calling in their mentors to help during the four days of fighting.

Thousands of Shiite Muslims have fled Kabul for northern Afghanistan during the fighting, triggering fears that the conflict on religious and ethnic lines would further divide the country.

"First it was a jehad (islamic war) against communists, then the fighting was for power, and now this deadly war between two sects will fragment Afghan society," said a Western diplomat.

Rabbani Attends Factional Meeting in Kabul

LD0706191792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] A joint session was held this afternoon in Gol Khana Palace aimed at [reaching] an agreement between Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami in order to ensure peace and security in Kabul city, and to prevent a repeat of the tragic incidents which have occurred in Kabul city recently. The session was attended by Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afganistan; Esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah, acting minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and deputy head of Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami; Esteemed Ayatollah Sayyed Abol Hasan Hafez, Esteemed Ayatollah Qorban 'Ali Mohaqeq, and Ayatollah Mir Hoseyn Sadeq Parwani, members of the Supreme (?Supervisory) Council of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami; and Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad 'Ali Zedreni, member of the Leadership Council of the United Front of Enqelab-e Eslami.

The session comprehensively discussed the recent events in Kabul city which have caused insecurity and inflicted casualties and financial damage upon the citizens of Kabul city. They made a series of decisions to ensure further security and prevent the reoccurrence of such tragic incidents.

The session stressed and strengthening solidarity with the unity of jehadi parties. Based on the principles of the sacred religion of Islam and aims of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, it was requested that the people maintain solidarity and unity among the various nationalities and tribes without taking into account race, religious, ethnic, and political differences, and render all-round cooperation with the Islamic State of Afghanistan toward its further consolidation.

It was mentioned at the session that the sad incidents in Kabul city, which on the surface took place as a result of clashes between forces of Wahdat-e Eslami and Ettehad-e Eslami, have caused great regret and sadness to the leadership delegations of the aforementioned parties. Such actions are considered contrary to the principles of the sacred religion of Islam and against the high interest of jehad and people of Afghanistan, and were condemned. It was mentioned that the incident was launched by a handful of motivated servants who are against the interest of the homeland and people.

A decision was made during the session with the full approval of the participants representing Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami to the effect that a recurrence of such unfortunate incidents should be prevented, and that the perpetrators of such actions, who are provoked by a number of enemies of Islam in order to create religious and ethnic discord, should be questioned and punished based on Islamic laws.

The representatives of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and Ettehad-e Eslami stated, with full unity of views, that the Muslim people of Afghanistan, regardless of any religious, race, ethnic, political and regional differences, are brothers, and assured the citizens of Kabul and dear compatriots that in future such incidents will not be repeated. The relevant formations will render all-round assistance to prevent such incidents and will defend peoples' life, property, honor, and prestige. They will launch joint and effective efforts aimed at ensuring peace, security, Islamic brotherly, unity, and cohesion within the country.

Finally a joint agreement was signed between the representatives of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and Ettehad-e Eslami, and a delegation was appointed to implement the provisions of the agreement.

'Text' of Agreement Signed by Factions

LD0706193492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jun 92

["Text" of joint agreement between Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan and Ettehad-e Eslami of Afghanistan signed in Kabul on 7 June]

[Text] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [preceding sentence in Arabic] The believers are but a single brotherhood, so make peace and reconciliation between your two brothers; and fear God that ye may receive mercy. [preceding sentence in Dari] On the eve of the success of the noble Islamic revolution and (?in the spring) of liberation and freedom, when the afflicted Afghan nation is imbued with happiness and celebrates the victory of light over dark, secret work started to turn this happiness to sorrow, against the peoples' hope of imposed war on the defenseless.

Unfortunately it caused casualties and damage. Meanwhile, those irresponsible provocateurs began the fighting between two groups—Ettehad-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan and Hezb-e Wahdat Eslami. In a meeting held at Golkhana Palace Sunday 7 June 1992, with the participation of the leadership of the two sides, it was decided [words indistinct] that the fighting shall end, and henceforth these two groups, along with other Islamic groups, will make all efforts toward the prosperity of Islamic Afghanistan.

No one has the right to resort to the gun within the names of those parties and to embark on fratricide and homicide [words indistinct]. Otherwise the violator shall be legally prosecuted and will be subjected to harsh punishment. It is to be mentioned that if the property of innocent people is captured by others, it is appropriate, according to Islamic Shari'ah, for the property to be returned to the original owners very soon. These matters were approved and agreed within the presence of Esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Afghan Leadership Council. A delegation comprising representatives of groups and [words indistinct] to ensure the immediate implementation of the provisions of the agreement with the help of Almighty God.

Red Cross Reports 170 Hurt in Mojahedin Fighting

LD0606105292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that last night there were clashes between the forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and the interim government around Kabul.

According to a report by our correspondent from Kabul, Hezb-e Eslami forces, intent on entering Kabul, clashed with forces of the interim government but did not succeed in entering the city.

The latest reports on the situation in Kabul indicate that after several days of clashes between some mojahedin groups in the capital, the city is calm today and government forces, supported by Uzbek militia, are patrolling the areas which have been the scene of battle in the last few days.

Meanwhile, the head of the representative office of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Kabul, referring today to the great number of wounded during recent clashes in Kabul, expressed concern over the status quo in the city. Speaking in an interview with our correspondent in Kabul, he said: More than 170 people have been admitted to the ICRC hospital in Kabul who were wounded during recent clashes, and other hospitals in Kabul are full of wounded people. Unofficial statistics put this figure up to 300. The head of the ICRC representative office added: Offering medical services in Kabul is very difficult and the city hospitals are facing a severe shortage of medicine.

Last of Kidnapped Shiites Released in Kabul

BK0606135592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1329 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 6 (AFP)—A dust storm hit them as they came out of the steel containers like cattle, blinking and shaking as mojahedin mediators prodded them to return home to their war devastated districts of Kabul.

They stood for a while, surrounded by heavily armed men, hesitated and then stumbled away into the storm.

The knot of 250 Shiite civilians had been packed 50 each to a metal shipping container by their rebel captors and kept there for the past three days.

They were among the last batches of some 2,600 men kidnapped since Tuesday when the sectarian war erupted in the Afghan national capital.

The frightened men, mostly shopkeepers and domestic help covered in their own filth, were freed when caretaker Government Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's forces negotiated their release from renegade Ettehad-e Eslami fighters in return for hundreds set free by the rival Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat.

"We were forced to stand for three days because there was no room. We saw no light and only one of the four guards would give us water after we paid heavy bribes," said Nadeer Ali, one of the scores of Shiites abducted by rival Sunni fighters.

One of his arms hung limpy as a bone had fractured and he had deep bruises on his body.

The two rival groups began taking civilian prisoners of war (POW) on Tuesday when the battle between the Wahdat and Ettehad turned into a deadly war which has left more than 100 dead and some 400 wounded in the streets of Kabul.

Pashtun fighters took adult prisoners, made their children dig trenches and allowed them to die untended when stray bullets or shells hit the captive workers, said one released POW after emerging from one of the many containers.

"We were not allowed to speak to others in the other containers," said 19-year-old Sher Agha, a candy maker, adding that he was dragged out of his home from Dashte Bagchi Tuesday and after a brief period of torture thrown into one of the filthy boxes.

Some wore marks of injuries, others just looked dazed after their release Friday evening. "They beat us up with chains and gun butts calling us anti-Islamic dogs," said Nadeer.

Mas'ud's Jamait-e-Eslami and Uzbek militia who mediated the release Saturday of more prisoners, said a total of 2,000 civilians and 600 armed rival fighters had been taken hostage by both sides. "Now all have been released," said one mediator.

"The Ettehad beheaded 100 Shiite Muslim POWs and killed four others with bayonets," said Wahdat political officer, Karim Khalili, adding that some women were among those killed.

The Ettehad-e Eslami, unlike other mojahedin groups, has not set up headquarters in Kabul, and its leader 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf is located without civilian communications in the mountains of Paghman on the edge of the city.

"A last batch of 300 Pashtun prisoners we kept them in houses, gave them food and did not torture them, but the Ettehad kept our people like cattle in containers," said Khalili, adding that several Shiites were still untraced despite the completion of the prisoner exchange.

Unconfirmed reports said several POWs were taken to deserted houses and executed, but neither the Shiites nor the Pashtun fighters owned up the alleged killings.

Thousands of Shiites, who in Afghanistan come from the poor central provinces of Hazarajat, have begun to flee the city of 1.5 million people since the cross abductions began from Kabul streets, shops, homes and offices.

Afghanistan's dominant Pashtun speaking Sunni Moslems have entrenched themselves in districts where Shiites do not live as a precaution against possible abduction by the Shiites who are demanding substantial representation in the Islamic government.

Mojaddedi, Rabbani Discuss Kabul City Security

LD0706162192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this morning at Gol Khana Palace with a number of representatives from the various wards of Kabul city.

Esteemed Ayatollah Mohammad 'Asef Mohseni, secretary and spokesman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; Esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, member of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; Esteemed Defense Minister General Ahmad Shah Mas'ud; Esteemed Engineer Ahmad, acting minister of internal affairs; and a number of other members of the Jehadi Council attended the meeting.

A number of representatives from the various wards of Kabul city spoke about the recent tragic incidents in Kabul city, the casualities and financial damage inflicted on the people as a result of these incident, and presented their views and proposals on the subjects. Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan spoke on the matter and said: The Islamic State of Afghanistan is fully aware of the recent development which have occurred in Kabul city and is concerned about them. Necessary instructions have been given to the relevant authorities to resolve the issues as soon as possible, and specific measures have been taken in this regard.

Also at the meeting, Esteemed Defense Minister General Ahmad Shah Mas'ud talked about the measures which have been taken by the Ministries of Defense and Internal Affairs and the Security Comission of Kabul city toward ensuring security in Kabul.

Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, also met this afternoon in Gol Khana Palace with the jehadi commanders of the various formations from Paktia Province. In the course of the meeting, which was also attended by Mawlawi Nasrollah Mansur, member of the Jehadi Council, the problems of the people of that province and its new structure were discussed.

Foreign Ministry Issues Policy Statement

LD0706162892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan—read by announcer]

[Text] The principles of foreign policy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan are based on mutual friendship and cooperation, respect for independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and free judgment in international affairs. As the Islamic State of Afghanistan is desirous of brotherhood and mutual cooperation with its neighbors, in particular with the Islamic countries, it hopes that Islamic countries and other regional countries will extend all-round help in the reconstruction of our war-weary country.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, while considering the solidarity and friendship of the neighboring and regional Islamic countries in the sacred jehad of the Muslim Afghan nation as a great value, believes that, as Afghanistan consider itself pledged to non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, it strongly hopes that others will refrain from direct interference and prevent those linked to them from interfering.

The Islamic State of Aghanistan strongly affirms that it considers interference in the internal affairs of its country against accepted international norms and against Islamic and Afghan national traditions, in particular in this sensitive historical moment, when even very small amounts of interference may cause great damage in maintaining peace, and delay the reconstruction of Afghanistan. It does not allow any sort of interference, under whatever name it may be, and strongly condemns it.

Foreigners Required To Have Entry Visas

LD0706163992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jun 92

["Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan"]

[Text] All foreign citizens, to whichever countries they belong, are required to have travel visa on their legal passports to enter Afghanistan. Any foreign citizen who enters the territory of Afghanistan without permission and visa will be prosecuted by law.

Rabbani Receives British Foreign Office Official

LD0506165992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State

of Afghanistan, met this afternoon at the prime minister's palace with Mr. Martin Williams, head of the South Asian department in the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

At the start of the meeting, the head of the South Asian department of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, congratulated the mojahedin on their success and on the establishment of the Islamic state of Afghanistan. He expressed the British Government's readiness to take part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani then expressed appreciation for the support given to the mojahedin by the British Government and people during their 14-year struggle, and for the British Government's readiness to take part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The chairman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan then explained the security situation in Kabul, and described the measures being taken by the relevant security organs for the complete restoration of security in the city.

The two sides then held talks on a number of subjects of mutual interest.

*KEYHAN Exclusive Interview With Zaher Shah

92AS1014A London KEYHAN in Persian
28 May 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Mohammad Zaher Shah; place and date not given]

[First two paragraphs are KEYHAN introduction]

[Text] The political situation of Afghanistan is changing rapidly. Undoubtedly, the fate of Afghanistan will have a profound effect on the region, and the neighboring brother and fellow religious country of Afghanistan is of special importance to Iranians.

At this time, when Afghanistan is still grappling with political unrest, His Majesty Mohammad Zaher Shah can play an instrumental role in creating calm, peace, and security in that country.

Considering this issue, KEYHAN held an interview with His Majesty Mohammad Zaher Shah, which follows:

[KEYHAN] Was the assassination attempt on your life a personal matter? If not, which organization or government do you suspect?

[Zaher Shah] The assassination attempt on my life was by no means personal. My compatriots and all those who know me and are interested in my country know this well, and I do not find it necessary to prove this point. Also, since the assassination attempt is under legal investigation, it would not be appropriate for me to express my opinion or make any guesses at this time. What I can say in this regard is that I have always lived my life by relying on God and submission to the will of God, and the remainder of my days shall be the same.

Of course, once again I emphasize that the assassination attempt will not alter my will to serve my compatriots and my beloved country. Rather, I shall be committed to the same principles. Without any claims, I am prepared for any service of which I am capable and the people of my country or their representatives ask of me.

[KEYHAN] It is rumored that for physical reasons, upon the recommendation of doctors, you must not go to Kabul, which is a mountainous region. Is this rumor correct?

[Zaher Shah] This rumor is not correct.

[KEYHAN] Can the dispute between Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Golboddin Hekmatyar be resolved peacefully through negotiations? Can you play a role in a likely compromise? Are you in contact with them?

[Zaher Shah] The Afghans do not have any differences that cannot be resolved peacefully through negotiations. I hope that the various Afghan sides, with foresight and realism and giving up their personal and political interests, consider the lofty interests of their country as higher and will resolve any problem or dispute peacefully and with understanding.

My contact continues with every side of the struggle in order to endorse the holy struggle of the people of Afghanistan, and I have, to the best of my ability, and shall continue so, reached an understanding and cooperation between Afghans to achieve the goals of the struggle and secure perfect freedom in Afghanistan.

[KEYHAN] Some of the high-ranking members of the government council warn the neighbors of Afghanistan not to interfere in the internal affairs of their country. Which country more than others engages in such interference?

[Zaher Shah] The experience of 13 years of war and homelessness of the Afghan people has been very instructive for the Afghans and also for the neighbors of Afghanistan and the countries of the region and the world and will have many effects. Among the characteristics of Afghans, two are very distinguishable and everlasting. One is gratitude, and another is hatred of interference and imposition. The experiences of the 10 years of struggle and the three years since the ousting of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan have provoked both characteristics in the Afghans. There is still time to secure peace and stability in the region, through full respect for the free will of the Afghan people without discrimination and foreign interference.

[KEYHAN] What is your opinion about the superficial Islamic tendencies of the new government in Afghanistan, or at least in some of the governing political forces?

[Zaher Shah] Such idioms are not historically rooted in the Islamic and intellectual literature of Afghanistan,

and in the Islamic world, as well, they have been recently imported from outside. To the extent that it concerns the role of Islam in the political regime of Afghanistan, I can clearly say that Islam and its clear foundations are the basis of the national and political life of Afghanistan, and no regime shall last in Afghanistan unless it receives its direct inspiration and basic laws from the foundations of Islam.

Islam is a religion of moderation, justice, equality and mercy. The value and concept of peace is inherent in Islam more than any other system. Respect for human dignity, human rights and human freedom is guaranteed in Islam in the best possible way.

The people of Afghanistan, who have sacrificed in the name of Islam, want a true Islamic regime without extremism and narrow-mindedness. The future political regime of Afghanistan will undoubtedly be a political regime based on Islam.

[KEYHAN] What is the place and role of the educated and Afghan intellectuals after the crumbling of communism and in the present political climate of Afghanistan, and what should it be?

[Zaher Shah] The educated and the Afghan intellectuals, including the Islamic scholars and scientists and political figures of Afghanistan, comprise the most important part of the Afghan society. The role of this part of the Afghan society in the political scene of Afghanistan is essential. It is unimaginable for a political regime in Afghanistan to become stable without this important Afghan pillar. In my opinion, the educated and intellectual class shall have an essential role in not only the stability and continuation of the future political regime in Afghanistan but in the creation and cooperation among other sectors of the Afghan nation and in guiding the people to make sound use of their natural and political rights in the political climate of Afghanistan today as well.

India

Rao on Pakistan's 'Fueling of Terrorism'

BK0806044892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Referring to the Kashmir issue, Mr. Narasimha Rao said he favored the restoration of a representative government in Jammu and Kashmir as soon as the conditions permit. Any solution to the problem has to be found within the framework of the Constitution. He rejected the demand of the certain quarters for scrapping Article 370 of the Constitution [granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir state]. Expressing grave concern at Pakistan's continued fueling of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Narasimha Rao said he intends to discuss the question with Mr. Nawaz Sharif when they meet in Rio.

In an answer to a question, the prime minister hinted that the government might come out with a series of proposals to solve the Punjab problem. Mr. Rao, however, felt that these proposals could not be spelled out at this stage. Mr. Narasimha Rao expressed the hope that the process of consensus he had begun for electing the next president will succeed without encountering serious problems.

High-Powered Transmitters To Be Put on Borders

BK0506060692 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] A special security cover will be provided to the installations and staff of All India Radio and Doordarshan [Television] in sensitive states such as Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, and also Tamil Nadu. This was stated by the deputy minister for information and broadcasting, Dr. Girija Vyas, while talking to newspersons in Madras today. She said in view of the recent blast at a television relay center near Kumbakonam, special security measures will be taken in Tamil Nadu, though not on the scale as in Punjab. Dr. Vyas said the information and broadcasting minister has held two meetings with the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, on tightening of security measures in sensitive areas and a 20-point policy has been evolved. She said in the sensitive states only essential staff will be maintained and no new stations will be opened.

Dr. Vyas said high-powered transmitters are being installed in the border areas to increase the reach of All India Radio and Doordarshan, especially to Pakistan.

Pakistani Politician on Treatment of Diplomat

BK0806072892 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The leader of the National Awami Party of Pakistan, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, has condemned the inhuman treatment meted out to Indian diplomat Mr. Rajesh Mittal by the Pakistani intelligence agencies. In an interview with PTI-TV, he said that diplomats are covered by the Geneva Convention and they have to be treated with respect and dignity.

[Begin Khan recording] Besides what Amnesty International says, there is a convention known as the Geneva Convention which covers all the activities of all the diplomatic assignments to different countries. In any civilized society, we have to live like good civilized neighbors. These sorts of things are never tolerated and must be condemned, whether Amnesty International says so or doesn't say so. Even besides that, it is the convention and all civilized countries abide by that convention. So, I suppose, it makes little difference. So far as I am concerned, I think, it is something that has to be condemned. [end recording]

Commentary Views Corridor Lease Issue

BK0606042692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Commentary by political commentator Kirit Bhowmick]

[Text] The growing doubts and concern both in Delhi and Calcutta over the smooth implementation of the Tin Bigha accord [on leasing border corridor to Bangladesh] are understandable. Although, the West Bengal government is bound to make security arrangements to prevent troublemakers reaching the Tin Bigha site when the corridor is opened to Bangladesh on the 26th of June, some unsavory incidents occurring cannot be ruled out. The concern has developed because the demand of a particular political party [Bharatiya Janata Party] for reconsideration of the accord has been getting noticeable popular support. The bundh [strike] call given by the party in North Bengal on the 28th of last month to coincide with the Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khalida Zia's, visit to Calcutta was a success. This has encouraged the party to plan to cause the maximum embarrassment to the authorities in Delhi and Calcutta when the corridor is opened later this month. It is encouraging to note that there is no complacency in political and official circles over what should be done to deal with the situation. The all-party resolution supporting the agreement planned to be passed by the West Bengal assembly on Tuesday [9 June] to be followed by the visit of an all-party team to Tin Bigha to explain to the people the implications of the accord are steps that may somewhat assuage the feelings of the local people who are obviously agitated over the implementation of the accord.

It is, of course, difficult to say whether the people of Kuchlibari will be reassured. The fear of the people of the area is that when the Tin Bigha corridor is handed over to Bangladesh, Kuchlibari will become an Indian enclave in Bangladesh. The fear is, of course, exaggerated. Tin Bigha is not being handed over to Bangladesh. Indian sovereignty over the strip of land will remain uncompromised and the jurisdiction of Indian courts will remain unimpaired. Bangladesh will be given the corridor for exclusive use by its nationals for only 6 hours a day. The armed forces and the police of that country will be allowed to pass through the corridor only by special permission. All these are good arguments. But all the Indian political parties except one, who have now joined hands on this friendly act toward Bangladesh, must also not overlook the fact that 1992 is not 1974 when the Tin Bigha accord was signed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The people of Kuchlibari are unable to overcome the feeling that they are being thrown into partial isolation amidst uncertain neighbors. Perhaps, this feeling was not there in 1974. There is little doubt that the Tin Bigha accord will be implemented. But it will be largely Bangladesh's responsibility to keep the arrangement going. It will depend on how much of the spirit of 1974 Bangladesh will be able to revive through acts of friendship towards its neighbor.

Minister Briefs Reporters on Gulf Trip

BK0506162092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] The Gulf countries have expressed the view that outstanding issues between India and Pakistan should be resolved through a dialogue. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, in New Delhi today. Briefing reporters on his recent visit to the region, he said there is appreciation for India's stand on settling all issues with Pakistan bilaterally in a peaceful manner. Mr. Faleiro said the Gulf states want their security to be a matter of concern to the neighboring countries, including India. [sentence as heard] Replying to a question, the minister said the Gulf countries expressed a keen desire to enlarge economic cooperation with India.

Harshad Mehta Arrested in Stock Exchange Scandal

BK0506060492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Harshad Mehta and many others were arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] in the security scam case in Bombay last night. They have been charged with criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery, falsification of documents, and bribery. The CBI director, Mr. S.K. Dutta, told our correspondent this morning more arrests are likely to be made today. Earlier, the CBI raided more than 30 offices and residential premises of Harshad Mehta. The FIR [First Information Report] in the case was filed in a special judge court in Bombay on Wednesday [3 June]. The raids were conducted simultaneously in Bombay, Delhi, Madras, and Bangalore.

UNDP To Provide Assistance for Jute Sector

BK0706155492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] India is to get financial assistance of $23 million from the United Nations Development Program for the development of the Jute sector. This was finalized at the first meeting of the UNDP management board for development of Jute sector held in New Delhi recently. The meeting also examined the new thrust areas of development for Jute during the eighth plan period.

Iran

Ayatollah Jannati Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon

LD0506145292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Second Friday Prayer sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, substitute Friday prayer leader of Tehran, at Tehran University on 5 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] One issue is the 15th of Khordad [rebellion of 5 June 1963]. The imam [Khomeyni] graciously ordered that the memory of the 15th of Khordad be kept alive forever. I mean that it was the beginning of the revolutionary movement in a serious form and the confrontation of guns, tanks, and bayonets. Whatever we have came after the 15th of Khordad movement. If the 15th of Khordad had not happened, the revolution would definitely not have achieved victory; the people would not have been able to vanquish the enemy. That day, the people showed that they were speaking the truth in declaring the imam to be the great Khomeyni. [crowd chants God's blessing on Mohammad and his scion; chant is repeated three times] They told the truth when they said we are your soldiers, we are loyal. Whatever they said, whatever they pledged to the imam was the truth. They did not lie to the imam. The imam spoke the truth, and the ummah told him the truth also. And the indication of the truth of this is the tremendous amount of blood they offered, so that according to well-known statistics, the people gave 15,000 martyrs from all strata in various cities. The country mourned.

That is why this was a living proof for vindicating the revolution; for negating the enemy; for the crime of the enemy and the subservience [sar-sepordegi] of the enemy to the United States; and that the enemy is confronting the people.

It was most strange. The incident showed that there were not only one or two, or 100, or 1,000, 5,000, or 100,000. It was the people. They came to the arena from all strata, and they all gave martyrs. Then the movement is an Islamic one because of the leadership, popular because of the widespread presence of the people in the arenas. And if the enemy had reckoned properly, it would not have committed all those crimes later and would have surrendered to the people from the start. [passage omitted]

Another issue is the ugly acts that have recently happened here and there. An example of which is the Mashhad incident, which is worthy of consideration from various aspects. Let me tell you of the roots, causes, consequences, and occurrences that happened during the incident. These are all worthy of consideration. But we cannot consider them in the Friday prayer, within this limited time. But I would like to say one sentence and put my finger on a point that until now has not been raised very much. This is the point: Islam is a religion in which one side is glory and power and in which the other side is compassion and mercy. God almighty himself is the most compassionate of all. [passage omitted] Where compassion is called for, God is the most compassionate. Where there are calls for retribution, agony, violence, and wrath—use of force—God is the most severe of punishers—where punishment is called for. No punishment is comparable with that of God. [passage omitted] If he is compassionate, this is not from a position of weakness. If there is power, it is not the ruthless human kind. Power is used in its proper place, mercy in its own proper place. The Islamic government also cannot be anything else but this. The prophet's government was also the same. Ali's government—peace be upon him—was the same also. [passage omitted] Islam cannot be chaotic [ashubzadeh]. A country without tranquillity cannot do anything. Gradually the people's honor will be endangered; their assets will be endangered; their lives will be endangered. Government is principally for safeguarding lives, assets, and honor and safeguarding ideology, ethics, and human virtues, all which can be achieved under the auspices of tranquillity. We cannot have anything without tranquillity. [passage omitted] Trouble must be answered with trouble [sharrs]. You answer a stone with a stone. [passage omitted] [Crowd chants: death to hypocrites and to Israel]

I said sometimes that because we have not governed in the past; because of the compassion and mercy that is in the heart of any Muslim—and a Muslim cannot be cruel; because of mercy toward the tears, cries, entreaties, and the like, we sometimes show mercy that is unfounded. Just like showing mercy to the sharp-fanged leopard. [refers to Persian saying that such mercy is tantamount to cruelty to sheep since they would be in danger from the leopard] And we do not observe the points that mercy and punishment have their own place. [passage omitted]

The country is being confronted by America. America is listening. She says Iran is more dangerous to us than the nuclear bomb. This is your power. [Crowd chants God is great; Khamene'i is the leader, death to Israel, to America] This is the power of Islam, the power of God, which has manifested itself in his subjects. When a country stands against the greatest power in such a manner and that power is frightened of it, a country that is the axis of the Islamic world and all the Muslims have set their sights, when the support for their revolution, for their divine movements and moves against tyranny are here, cannot afford to be busy with its own petty affairs. [sentence as heard] How can it allow some people to do whatever they wish? If this is not decisively confronted, we cannot call this act Islamic. See what Ali did; see what the imam did. That is why we must beware, take the matter seriously. [passage omitted]

And this is my advice about this matter, and I hope that it will not be forgotten.

I will say a few words about our oppressed Lebanese brothers. You have recently witnessed the pressure put on them by Israel. Israel has put a lot of pressure on our Lebanese Hizballah brothers. Why? What have they done? What crime have they committed? Nothing. All they say is our country must belong to us. We want to defend our country. Why has Israel occupied our lands? Why has she usurped Lebanese lands like she has Palestinian lands? We want our rights.

Just because they seek their rights—with the consent and assistance of the United States and some of the U.S.' surrogates—Israel wants to crush them. [passage omitted]

Another issue is that of Saudi Arabia amassing advanced weapons and U.S. double standards. On the one hand, the United Nations controls the sale of arms by their declared means. And they themselves are talking about disarmament. On the other hand, there is the $2 billion sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia. What does that mean? What are they planning to do? Against whom do they wish to mobilize Saudi Arabia? Israel? If they thought that there was a one in a thousand chance of one of those bullets being fired at Israeli borders, they would not give them the weapons. No one can deny that.

So, what other country? Are they afraid of Iraq? Iraq has fallen. Iraq is not what it used to be; Saddam is not what he used to be. They have kept him to spite us; to spite the oppressed people of Iraq. To show that they lied, that when they said we will deal with aggressors, they meant we will do nothing to aggressors; we are after our own interests, and so long as our interests are not threatened, we will leave the aggressors alone.

So Iraq threatens no one now. For whom do you want arms then? Other than to plunder the wealth of Muslims and pay for the oil with arms and then tell them where and how to use it. There is no other reason.

If you have made plans for the Islamic Republic, you should know that they will not come true. God is with the Islamic Republic, and you are not big enough to stand against Islam and this revolution and this nation in spite of all the weapons you amass. [passage omitted]

'Disavowal of Polytheists Ceremony' Held

NC0706191292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Telephone dispatch by VIRI correspondent Sa'id Ahmad in Mecca about the disavowal of polytheists ceremony—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Beside God's House and in a holy month, tens of thousands of Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims responded to the late Imam Khomeyni's appeal to participate in the disavowal of polytheists ceremony. Tens of thousands of pilgrims from around the world began these major holy ceremonies to voice their disavowal of polytheists and atheists—led by America and world Zionism. Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri, representative of the Islamic Revolution leader and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, attended the ceremony.

The participants shouted revolutionary Islamic slogans denouncing the oppressors and polytheists and calling on all Muslims to unite in line with Koranic teaching: And hold fast, all together, by the rope that God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves. [Koranic verse]

Pilgrims from various parts of the world participated in this holy ceremony, which is based on the principle of disavowing God's enemies—the polytheists and atheists—who concoct plots to harm Muslims and their entity, greatness, and glory and seek to control their wealth and countries. Death to America, death to Israel, will remain the holy slogan emphasized by the followers of prophet Muhammad's authentic course, the followers of the Islamic revolution of right, justice, and freedom, and advocates of the deprived and oppressed peoples in Palestine; Lebanon; Afghanistan; Iraq; Kashmir; Burma; Bosnia-Hercegovina; Azerbaijan; Nahshawan; Nigeria; Somalia; Sudan; Algeria; and everywhere of our one Islamic world. [passage omitted]

Reyshahri made a speech in which he called on the participants to read a verse from the Koran for the soul of the late Imam Khomeyni and the martyrs of the Mecca disaster [during 1987 pilgrimage]. On behalf of the Islamic Revolution leader, he thanked the ceremony participants. He said that what happened in Muslim Algeria underscored the West's enmity towards Muslims and its false claims about defending human rights.

Reyshahri questioned why Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Azerbaijan, Burma, Kashmir, Iraq, and Lebanon face similar conditions. He said that America—the enemy of Islam and Muslims—is to blame for all these problems. America, he said, currently represents the epitome of polytheism and hypocrisy. We meet today to celebrate the ceremony of the disavowal of polytheism and atheists, led by criminal America. He stressed the late imam's call for Muslims to unite. Pilgrimage is a credible manifestation of this unity. He pointed out that several Central Asian republics have returned to the body of the Muslim nation. He noted the spread of Islamic awakening throughout the world. [passage omitted]

Reyshahri noted George Bush's statement in which he said that Iran is more dangerous than the atomic bomb to U.S. world interests. He said that Islam threatens America and its interests. After that, a final statement was read, stressing the following points:

1. Emphasizing confrontation with global arrogance and rejecting the new world order that the United States wants to implement.
2. Noting that participants in the ceremony consider the Islamic Revolution to be the premise for world revolution and stress the need to support it.
3. Asserting support for the Islamic intifadah in Palestine and rejecting capitulatory solutions.
4. Denouncing aggression against Muslims in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Kashmir, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and Algeria.
5. Welcoming the Islamic victory in Muslim Afghanistan.
6. Condemning the Western cultural onslaught against the Islamic sanctities and calling on Muslim governments to confront it.
7. Calling on Muslims to unite to solve the Islamic world's problems and to confront world polytheism and atheism.

Further on Reaction to Riots in Mashhad

Riots Planned by 'Global Arrogance'

LD0506191192 Tehran IRNA in English 1354 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., June 5, IRNA—First Vice-Speaker of Majles (parliament) Hojjat ol Eslam Hasan Rowhani said today that the recent riots in the holy city of Mashhad were planned by the global arrogance to create insecurity and prevent establishment of relations between Khorasan province and Central Asian republics.

Speaking before main sermons at the Friday prayer here, he said some 2,000 rioters intended to create insecurity in the "heart of Islamic Iran" on the eve of the third demise anniversary of the father of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni, and the beginning of the fourth term of the Majles.

"The arrogance intended to make the region insecure in order to force the nations of Afghanistan and some Central Asian republics to revise their political and economic relations (with the province) and reconsider their decision to make investments in the Sarakhs-Mashhad railway project," Rowhani added.

However, he said, Mashhad people's vigilance and their million-strong rally against the rioters foiled all the plots of arrogance, and people once again renewed their loyalty to the Islamic Revolution and its leader.

Rowhani Vows 'Maximum Punishment'

NC0706165992 Paris AFP in English 1600 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 7 (AFP) - Iranian demonstrators who last month pillaged and burned public buildings in Mashhad will receive maximum punishment, the deputy speaker of the Iranian parliament has vowed here.

"The violence was aimed at damaging relations between Iran and its Central Asian neighbors," Hasan Rowhani said in a statement published in the newspaper KEYHAN. "With the incidents, the oppressor (the United States) wanted to suggest to the Afghan people and to certain Central Asian republics that the region lacks security, thereby prompting them to reconsider their decisions to establish political and economic relations with Iran."

More than 300 people, according to official figures, were arrested following demonstrations May 30 in the eastern city of Mashhad that left at least one person dead and several injured. Tehran Radio reported that the troubles erupted when "a group of bandits and outlaws who wanted to construct houses without the municipality's authorization" attacked public buildings.

Ruhani said those responsible for the violence would soon be presented to the public. Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri described the demonstrators as "corrupters." Islamic law calls for the death penalty for those guilty of "corruption on earth."

Iranian authorities have blamed opposition movements for the disturbances, notably the People's Mojahedin. But one newspaper attributed the unrest to difficult economic circumstances.

Speaker Cited on 'Foreign Involvement'

LD0606114192 Tehran IRNA in English 1017 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 6, IRNA—Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here Friday that traces of foreign involvement in the recent incident in the northeastern city of Mashhad have been found.

Addressing a group of mourners who had gathered at Imam Khomeyni's shrine to mark the third anniversary of his demise, the hojjat ol-Eslam vowed that as long as Basij forces (volunteer forces) remain vigilant "no mercenary or opportunist element can dare harm the Islamic system."

"The Basij forces, who defended Islam and the homeland amid blood and fire, have no fear of fighting off merceneries and hooligans," he stressed.

Last Saturday, a group of squatters, joined by hooligans, rampaged through Mashhad, capital of Khorasan province, burning buses, looting shops and beating municipality workers who were assigned to remove squatters.

Turning to the new U.S. ploys, the Majles speaker said that the fourth Majles, opened May 28, is the true follower of the guidelines of the late Imam Khomeyni and of leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and will preserve its anti-American spirit.

Heavy Rains Flood Districts

LD0606115492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Casualties and damage resulted from floods in Mashhad. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] Heavy rainfall, which began at midnight last night, flooded the districts of 'Ab va Barq, Chahar Cheshmeh, Najafi township, and Darareh in Mashhad. Hundreds of homes and commercial units were destroyed and many light and heavy vehicles were swept away by the floods. Also, a Tehran-Mashhad railway bridge in the Tappeh Salaam region was destroyed in the floods, and five trains lined up behind the bridge. Currently, 30 buses were dispatched to the region to transfer the passengers.

Also, heavy gale force winds and rainfall—which began in the city of Mashhad at midnight last night—destroyed 3,000 trees and cut off telephone links in some areas of the city of Mashhad.

Reports received from the towns of Neishabur, Sarakhs, Bojnurd, and the district of Kalat also tell of rainfall and floods in those regions, causing heavy damages.

Heavy rainfall and flooding already destroyed over 10,000 hectares of farmland in 35 villages in Neishabur by 1230 today. Also, the road linking Gifan to Bojnurd was cut off.

Relief forces—comprised of Red Crescent relief workers, security forces, the Guards, people from the Housing Foundation, the Reconstruction Jihad, and principality workers—began acting from the early hours when floods began. Their efforts continue.

Residents Demand Regime's Downfall

JN0706173892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The Iranian cities of Mashhad, Neishabur, Chenaran, and Bojnurd have witnessed massive disturbances in the aftermath of recent floods there, as the afflicted Iranians took to the streets with slogans demanding the fall of the Iranian regime.

A statement issued by the Iranian opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq in Paris today said that at least 15 people were killed in the floods that swept hundreds of houses, stores, and buildings. More than 30 villages were buried under the ground, the statement noted.

The statement added that the regime dispatched groups from its repressive agencies, including Guards and mobilization personnel, to the city of Mashhad. A demonstration was staged in that city, bringing together tens of thousands of Iranian residents from the Najafi township and the students' neighborhood.

In another development, the Iranian opposition affirmed that Muhammad Reza Baqeri, the Iranian regime's ambassador to Turkey, was the official who supervised and coordinated the kidnapping of Mansur Soleimai, member of the Iranian opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq.

A statement issued by the organization in Paris today urged Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to take urgent and decisive measures against the terrorist crimes committed by the agents of the Iranian regime in Turkey. The statement added that the numerous crimes committed by terrorist Iranian diplomats in Turkey require that these diplomats be tried and punished in accordance with the laws in force.

The statement held the Turkish Government responsible for protecting the safety and security of the foreigners residing in Turkey from crimes committed by the Iranian regime's cliques, which disguise themselves as diplomats in Ankara and other Turkish cities.

Tension, Unrest Prevail in 'War-Torn' Khuzestan

NC0506201592 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Reports received from war-torn Khuzestan and the deprived cities indicate a heightening of tension and unrest in this crisis-ridden area. Following the massive and angry demonstrations by the heroic residents of Shushtar, reports were received from Shush as well, where recently the anticultural freedom-opposing clerical regime planned to hold a book exhibition. On the very first day of this exhibition, 1 June, the courageous people of Shush set fire to the display set up by the regime's impostors and Revolution Guards. Clashes and intense fighting ensued between the people and the regime's agents.

In Sarbandar, the deprived township in the northwest of Mahshahr port was the scene of a massive demonstration last week in which large numbers of war victims and refugees participated. The disgusted people set fire to a large number of vehicles and buildings belonging to the clerical regime.

Reports from all the cities in Khuzestan indicate that the atmosphere is fraught with tension. In Dezful and Andimeshk, according to supporters of the Mojahedin-e Khalq [MKO], there have been protest marches and demonstrations. They report that here the people are seeking a pretext to spill onto the streets and to rise up against the clerical regime, and the air is heavy with tension. They state that a large number of brochures of the National Liberation Army [NLA] carrying portraits of the leader of the resistance and the armed units of the NLA were disseminated, which generated immense zeal and joy among the people of Dezful.

Reports of mounting tension have been received from the northern areas of the country. Reports from Mazandaran and Shiraz indicate that the atmosphere in the northern cities is tense. One of these reports received by some forces in contact with the MKO in Mazandaran states that tension reigns in these cities. The regime has sent in fresh forces named the Gheybat patrol, a special task force called in from other cities. The regime's ploy is not to utilize the services of local forces. The forces are shuffled among various places so the regime can delude itself that these forces cannot be easily recognized. Their identity is quite clear to the supporters of the MKO, however. These forces have been brought from Minab and their presence in Mazandaran is quite conspicuous.

Another report from Amol states that the massive Mashhad demonstrations have had a very encouraging effect on Amol residents. The people are saying to one another: We should also rise up against the regime as it is on its way out. If the people rise up everywhere in protest, the regime can be toppled sooner.

The MKO supporter who sent this report adds: The atmosphere in the city of Mazandaran is similar to what it was prior to the one that prevailed before 19 February 1978.

Arak: Last week Arak officials sought to raze a house to the ground. The owner of the house and his children tried to prevent the bulldozer from moving, but one of the children was hit by the bulldozer and the furious onlookers bore down on the regime's agents and beat them up. Law enforcement agents entered the fray, but the protest demonstrations continued for 4 to 5 hours and eventually the agents had to retreat.

A report from Arak states that following the heroic demonstrations by Arak residents, the regime's officials and agents are expected to crack down severely on the people. The same report states that the regime has transferred a large number of its repressive agents from Borujerd to Arak.

Qom: We have received a report that on 1 June, two branches of a bank and the Finance Department building in Qom were set on fire by the disgusted people. According to the report, the people, who have reached the end of their endurance, staged a protest demonstration from 0900 to around 1200, and some of the people were arrested by the repressive agents of the regime.

Regarding the recent demonstrations, the regime's finance building was the target of the extraordinary indignation of the people against this antipopular organization because of the heavy back-breaking taxes levied by the regime on the people and was [words indistinct].

*"Thousands' Clash With Security Forces in Arak

92AS1013A London KEYHAN in Persian
28 May 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] In a widespread riot against all manifestations of the Islamic Republic, the people of Arak engaged in clashes with the security forces of the regime last Wednesday (30 Ordibehesht) [20 May]), setting afire and destroying the city hall, the government offices and the revolutionary institutions in that city. This event, which followed the death of a small child who was killed in an accident by a truck carrying bricks, rapidly turned into antiregime demonstrations in which thousands of people in the City Hall Square of Arak pulled down and destroyed the large pictures of Khomeyni, Khamene'i, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani placed atop a tower and then destroyed the tower. Despite the blockage and shots fired by the security officials, the angry demonstrators attacked the City Hall of Arak and set it on fire. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI claimed that the attackers "took some documents and evidence." This newspaper called the demonstrators "opportunist elements" and "counterrevolutionary."

The people of Arak then attacked the Arak revolution prosecutor's office and set it on fire as well. Faced with the anger and boldness of the antiregime demonstrators, the "security forces" retreated. Prior to that, however, according to available reports, at least two persons were killed as a result of the shots fired by the armed officials. A report from the European office of the "Iranian Nation's Party" indicates that the people also attacked other government buildings as well as several banks. According to this report, with the spread of the clashes, the demonstrators responded to the security officials' attacks with Molotov cocktails and set fire to at least 17 of their vehicles. But other sources reported the setting on fire of at least one vehicle of the officials and the destruction of several stores.

The main reason for the rebellion of the unhappy people of Arak was the dealings of the Arak City Hall officials with the residents of the shanty town of the city, under the protection of the "security forces." The city hall officials tried to bulldoze the shanties, which were built illegally, but the people rose up in resistance and engaged in clashes with them. The anger of the people reached its height when a small child was crushed under the tire of a truck that was being chased by the "security forces." The truck was loaded with bricks to build illegal houses and the guards attempted to arrest its drivers.

After the angry people attacked the City Hall and other public places in the city, and as night approached, the regime sent hundreds of Revolution Guards from Qom, Saveh, and other nearby cities to Arak and began putting down the demonstrators. They resorted to much violence and arrested hundreds of people. Nevertheless, scattered riots and demonstrations continued on Thursday, 31 Ordibehesht [21 May], as well.

On Thursday, gathering the Hezbollahis in the city square and bringing in a group of Hezbollahis from other cities, the regime organized demonstrations in support of the Islamic Republic and against the people's rebellion. But the dimensions of the "antiriot" were not comparable to the riots of the previous day.

The incident in Arak is so far the last in a series of riots, small and large, which have occurred since the beginning of this year in various cities. Some time ago, the people of Shiraz, including a group of disabled war victims, engaged in large demonstrations, brought on by the increasing high prices and the suppressive policies of the regime, which were put down violently by the regime. Following the Shiraz uprising, the security and law enforcement officials arrested a large group of people and executed several of them. But the news of these executions was not officially revealed.

Last week, widespread protests and demonstrations also took place in the cities of Khuzestan Province. At the present time, the cities of Khuzestan are under the complete control of the Guards Corps, the revolution committees and police officials, operating under the common name of "security forces." For instance, the city of Shushtar, in which on 21 Ordibehesht [11 May] widespread demonstrations occurred involving both opponents and supporters of the regime, is also under the

occupation of the guards. Disturbances also have been reported from Izeh, Haftgel, and Masjed Soleyman.

On the other hand, although newspapers close to the regime made some references to the events in Arak, the details of the events were not published. But when the people learned about the clashes and demonstrations in Arak through unofficial channels and also the Persian-language radios abroad, the newspapers were forced to provide additional explanations. For example, SALAM, managed by Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha (who was recently defeated in the Majles elections by the supporters of Rafsanjani), which is now in a shaky situation, and there is even talk by the government of closing it, tried to inform its readers indirectly about the events and also blame the "censorship" of the news of the Arak riots on "official sources." Under the heading of "Arak Riots," and under the pretext of responding to numerous telephone calls to the office of the newspaper, in its Sunday, 3 Khordad [24 May], issue, SALAM writes:

"The most important sources for news in the newspapers are: IRNA, the CENTRAL NEWS UNIT and the newspaper correspondents. Unfortunately, in regards to the above-mentioned incident, which lasted for hours and caused much damage, none of the official news sources reported anything. SALAM also reported some matters in the newspaper. Because of the importance of such reports, efforts were made to have them independently verified, in which endeavor so far we have had no success."

SALAM added: "Since all the official sources follow a policy of silence, we thought that there might be something which was deemed expedient to keep SALAM uninformed. Hence, we did not report it. We were not interested in preparing and presenting a report which had not been verified, for good reason."

SALAM continued: "Of course, it could be predicted from before that such events would happen in the city of Arak, especially since on Friday prior to the events, the Friday imam of Arak had spoken harshly about the officials of the province and the city, which the newspaper did not report in order to prevent increased disturbances."

The newspaper of Kho'iniha and the so-called "extremists" concluded: SALAM believes that the current news policy cannot be beneficial for the society, and it is necessary to essentially revise it."

* Strikes, Underemployment in Oil Installations

92AS1013B London KEYHAN in Persian
28 May 92 p 4

[Text] The scattered strikes of oil industry employees, which in the past few months spread to the Iranian oil facilities in Khuzestan and some of the oil refinery units in Tehran and Tabriz, have gradually spread to other oil production, distribution, refining and export terminals as well. According to available reports from various areas of the country, at the present, a significant number of the employees of the oil export terminals on Kharg Island, the Tehran refinery, the natural gas refinery being built in Jam and Riz, the Abadan refinery and several other major units have either stopped work altogether or have slowed down. An international energy expert told our KEYHAN correspondent that considering the need of the Islamic Republic for foreign currency revenues, the decrease in the Iranian oil exports by 150,000-200,000 barrels per day can have no other explanation than the appearance of technical problems, strikes and slowdowns in various units of this industry. The above-mentioned expert, who has received piecemeal reports of the strikes and work slowdowns in the Iranian oil industry from news sources in the Persian Gulf region, added: Since several months ago, the officials of the Islamic Republic, stating that the decrease in the Iranian oil exports is to help stabilize the global oil market and stabilize the price of this energy source in the world, tried to prevent the leaking of reports to other countries on the main cause of this decrease and the emergence of strikes in various sections of the oil industries. This expert said: "Despite all the efforts of the security agents of the Islamic regime and the severe censorship governing the news media, some newspapers published in the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region have reported on the scattered strikes in the Iranian oil industries." The above-mentioned expert added: "The dissatisfaction of the oil workers has increased to the level that some of the elements in the strikes set fire to the oil reservoir of the Tehran oil refinery. Moreover, the employees of the Iranian crude oil export terminal on Kharg Island refused to perform their duties, including loading.

Simultaneous with the publication of scattered news on the appearance of strikes in the Iranian oil industries and connecting these strikes to the discontent of the oil industry employees and workers in regards to the economic policies of the regime, high prices and back-breaking inflation, Gholamreza Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum of the Islamic Republic, when he attended the Majles, faced the harsh questions of some of the Majles deputies concerning the oil distribution problems, the shortage of fuel in the country and also the appearance of strikes and unrest in various oil industry facilities. Kamaloddin Shahriari, the deputy from Dashti, Tangestan, Deyr and Kangan, asked the minister of petroleum of the Islamic regime about the employment of the employees and workers of various oil industry units: "What is the reason for the appearance of the unrest in the first 10 days of Farvardin 1370 [21-30 March 1991] in Jam and Riz in connection with the Vali-ye 'Asr natural gas plant and refinery, which still continues? And why have the officials of that ministry ignored the demands of the people in the region?" Gholamreza Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum of the regime, said in response to this question of the Majles deputy: "The issue of unrest has nothing to do with the Ministry of Petroleum. Rather, this must be asked of the security forces as a security question."

Closure of Yugoslav Mission in Tehran Urged

NC0606104992 Paris AFP in English 1015 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 6 (AFP) - An Iranian daily on Saturday called for the closure of Yugoslavia's diplomatic mission in Tehran to protest the killing of Muslims by Serbs.

"These missions protect the interests of groups who have blood on their hands," said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, which is close to hardliners.

It referred to a recent call by Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi for an urgent meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to discuss the Bosnian conflict and discontinue ties with Belgrade.

"Now that Belgrade is showing its true colors, Muslim leaders should respond accordingly and start by isolating that regime," said the English-language paper.

Muslim and Arab countries have slammed attacks by Serbia, supported by Yugoslavia, against the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina pits the independent government of the Republic, backed mainly by Slav Muslims and Croats, against Serbs seeking an alliance with the rump Yugoslavia of Serbia and Montenegro.

Tehran 'Committed' To Returning Iraqi Aircraft

LD0606092392 Tehran IRNA in English 0649 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Makkah, June 6, IRNA—Tehran is fully committed to implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions concerning return of the Iraqi aircraft which fled to Iran during the Persian Gulf war, Iranian First Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati told 'AL-MADINAH' daily here to be published Saturday.

Besharati in an interview with the Saudi daily added that the Iraqi attack on Kuwait and the occupation of the tiny Arab country was a test for all regional countries.

The Iranian official, who is here on an official visit and also for the hajj rituals, praised the efforts by the Saudi Government to rennovate Muslim's two holiest shrines in Mecca and al-Medina. He added that it is now the time for reconstruction of al-Aqsa mosque, another holy site of Muslims, in the occupied Palestine.

Velayati Visit to Syria, Lebanon Assessed

LD0506200692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1851 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Iran's foreign minister, Dr. Velayati, ended his four day visit to Syria and Lebanon and returned to Tehran yesterday afternoon. Commenting about his talks with Syrian and Lebanese officials, Dr. Velayati said: Iran, Syria, and Lebanon resist the Zionist regime's ever increasing aggression alongside one another and with due coordination.

Dr. Velayati—who was visiting Lebanon for the first time following the culmination of the Islamic revolution of Iran—commented about the significance of his talks with the leaders of anti-Zionist resistance groups in Lebanon and said: This official and important visit occurred when Lebanon has been subjected to new aggressions by the Zionists, and we consider it our duty to announce our decisive support for the Lebanese people during this sensitive period.

Political observers believe that the Iranian team's talks with government officials and the leaders of resistance groups in Lebanon will greatly contribute to the continuation of the steadfastness against the Zionist aggression, especially since, over the past few days, the Israeli forces' invasion of southern Lebanon has significantly increased. [passage omitted]

The Israeli Government—under the pretext of defending Jewish settlements in occupied Palestine and by creating the so-called security belt—is trying to justify its oppression of Muslims in southern Lebanon. But (?actually) its criminal [word indistinct] over the past few days show that it does not know any obstacle in the way of its expansionist plans.

Based on this reality, the Islamic Republic of Iran is doing its best to help Lebanese revolutionary Muslims in their sacred defense. Mr. Velayati's two-day trip to Lebanon is considered an important step in this same connection. Furthermore, Iran's mediation for setting free two German hostages is one of the other issues discussed by influential leaders during Dr. Velayati's visit.

Based on Iran's humanitarian inclinations, Dr. Velayati is trying to undertake effective measures for setting the two hostages free by making use of Iran's positive role among the Lebanese revolutionaries. [passage omitted]

Turkmen Presidential Council Member, Velayati Meet

LD0606102892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Mr. Geldymurad Kakabayevich Nurmukhamedov—a member of Turkmenistan's presidential council who is in Tehran heading a delegation—met with Mr. Velayati, foreign affairs minister, this morning.

During the meeting, Mr. Nurmukhamedov mentioned that the Republic of Turkmenistan places importance on its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and said that his country stresses the necessity of keeping those relations alive and in further expanding them.

He termed the presence of our country's president at the last Ashkhabad session as a symbol of the two nations' extreme interest in restoring and expanding the established friendly relations.

During that meeting, our country's foreign affairs minister termed the outlook of mutual cooperation between both countries as positive and stressed the expansion of the two countries' multilateral cooperation alongside mutual relations within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO.

He said: The Caspian Sea is a natural axis for regional cooperation and the joint heritage of the countries of the region. It is very important that the Caspian Sea be used appropriately and not polluted.

Daily Cites Effect of Turkey's Confiscating Ship

LD0706084592 Tehran IRNA in English 0758 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday stressed that any delay by the Turkish Government in release of the ship "Cape Malias", confiscated by Turkey while carrying goods for Iran through the Bosphorous Strait on October 22, 1991, would hinder improvement of Tehran-Ankara relations.

"TEHRAN TIMES" pointed to the Wednesday decision of the Turkish High Court of Appeals to reject the verdict of the Istanbul Court of National Security over the case of the ship.

The Istanbul Court of National Security will hold session in the coming days to consider the verdict of the High Court of Appeals, and in case the court confirms the verdict, the Iranian ship will be released. Otherwise, the case will be referred for final verdict to the general penal assembly of the Turkish High Court of Appeals.

Among the first casualties of the cold relations between the two neighbors have been the projected trips to Iran by the Turkish premier, Suleyman Demirel and the Turkish Minister of Interior Ismat Sezgin.

"This is a most unfortunate situation under circumstances when top level negotiations between the two governments are of vital importance in view of the events and problems related to the new republics in the former Soviet Union."

The history of relations among governments in the region has proven that economic ties can be broken off very easily, whereas the restoration of the ties are usually very hard, "as old economic partners are of necessity soon replaced by new ones," concluded the daily.

Daily Urges Saudi, Pakistani Help on Afghanistan

NC0606092492 Paris AFP in English 0830 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 6 (AFP) - An Iranian paper on Saturday urged Saudi Arabia and Pakistan to cooperate with Iran in helping to resolve the Afghan conflict between rival factions in Afghanistan.

"Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and other countries with influence among the mojahedin (rebel fighters) should direct their collaboration towards the creation of an atmosphere of understanding and cordiality among the conflicting groups," the English-language TEHRAN TIMES said in an editorial.

The daily, which is close to the government, said a civil war in Afghanistan could not be beneficial to any of that country's neighbors.

The interim government in Afghanistan threatened Thursday to intervene militarily to end the fighting which has been raging since Tuesday in the capital Kabul between the Sunni Ettehad-e Eslami faction which is close to Saudi Arabia and the pro-Iranian Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat.

The clashes have left scores of dead in Kabul.

The paper said recent events in Kabul and the type of coverage they have received, notably in the Western media—in a bid to involve Saudi Arabia and Iran in the conflict—were tied to the pilgrimage at Mecca which begins this month.

It was referring to a past falling out between Iran and Saudi Arabia over the hajj, or pilgrimage.

Previous pilgrimages to the holy sites of Mecca and Medina have been marred by violence, notably after political protests by Iranian pilgrims.

A total of 402 people, including 275 Iranians were killed in one such disturbance in 1987.

"Fostering the idea that Iran and Saudi Arabia have indisputable influence among the abovementioned groups and the authorities in both countries should pressure those groups into reaching common points and the possibility of any kind of exploitation," the TEHRAN TIMES said. [sentence as received]

On Friday, the official SAUDI PRESS AGENCY reported that King Fahd had appealed for an end to the fighting in Afghanistan between rival mojahedin groups.

'New Chapter' in Ties With Uzbekistan Seen

LD0206221592 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, June 2, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry director general in charge of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Transcaucasian affairs, Morteza Bank, and Uzbek Secretary of Foreign Affairs Abdurrazaqov surveyed Tehran-Tashkent relations and the Afghanistan problem in Tashkent today.

Bank delivered the Uzbek official a written message from President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran for

the Uzbek president, extending an invitation to him to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Uzbek minister said that relations between Iran and Uzbekistan are one thousand year old.

Emphasizing on expansion of cultural relations, he said, "a new chapter has been opened in historical relations between the two countries."

Tajik Minister Seeks Help for Banking System

LD0206231192 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—Visiting Tajik Minister of Economy and Finance Ismoil Davlatov, meeting with Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli here Tuesday requested that Iran help Tajikistan organize its economic and banking system.

The Tajik minister also called for expansion of Tehran-Dushanbe relations in economic and banking fields.

'Adeli said Iran was ready to train manpower for Tajikistan and help it organize its banking system. He also agreed that 20 Tajik bankers be trained in Iran as the first stage of mutual cooperation.

Davlatov is in Iran at the head of a group of 150 Tajik Muslims to participate in mourning ceremonies commemorating the 3rd anniversary of the passing away of the founder of the Islamic Republic, late Imam Khomeyni.

Aid Convoy Dispatched to Republic of Nakhichevan

LD0406085192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] An aid convoy was dispatched to the people of the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan. The convoy of 11 truckloads—comprising about 120 tonnes of cooking oil, sugar, flour, and other supplies for the people—left Urumiyeh for Nakhichevan this morning.

Pakistan

Sharif Speaks on Army Operation in Sindh

BK0606151892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has expressed confidence that the Operation Clean Up launched in Sindh to restore law and order situation would yield positive results. The prime minister was talking to newsmen after presiding over a high-level meeting in Karachi today. The operation against dacoits [robbers], terrorists, kidnappers, and other criminals launched with the consensus in the National Assembly also enjoys support from all sections of the people and it would be even-handed. The prime minister said the government desires progress and prosperity in all parts of the country, including Sindh. The results of the operation would create sense of security among the people and help restore law and order which is vital to progress. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the chief minister of Sindh is in charge of the operation. He urged the press to make positive and effective contribution in this regard by assisting the government and informing the people about the fact. Replying to a question, the prime minister said there is no reason why the objective of the operation should not be achieved in the stipulated time of six months. The results could be derived much earlier, he said. The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Abdul Sattar Lalika, and Minister for Science and Technology Mr. Elahi Bux Sumroo were also present on the occasion.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, presided over an important law and order meeting in Karachi today. The corps commander, Lieutenant General Nazeer Akhtar, gave a detailed briefing about the law and order situation in the Sindh Province. Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister expressed his determination to root out dacoits, criminals, and terrorists. The prime minister invited the participants to present their viewpoints regarding the operation in Sindh. The prime minister said the government has invoked Article 147 of the Constitution so that law and order could be fully restored in Sindh. Those who attended the meeting included some federal ministers, the government and chief minister of Sindh, the chairman and the secretary general of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], and high-ranking civil and military officials.

Prime Minister Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has lauded the progress of the Army's clean up operation launched to weed out the menace of terrorism, dacoities, and other subversive activities unleashed by vested interests to disturb peace and harmony in the province of Sindh. The prime minister observed this while attending a high-level briefing at the corps headquarters held this afternoon. The prime minister appreciated the efforts of all those associated with the internal security duty. On arrival at the corps headquarters, the prime minister was received by General Asif Nawaz, Chief of the Army Staff; the corps commander, Lieutenant General Mohammad Nazeer Akhtar; and other senior Army officers. The corps commander, Lieutenant General Mohammad Nazeer Akhtar, spoke in detail about the prevailing law and order situation and progress of the ongoing Army operation in the urban and rural areas of the province. He specially emphasized that the operation was targeted against criminals and antistate elements and not against any political party or ethnic group. The briefing was followed by a lunch attended by the prime minister; the governor and chief minister of Sindh; some ministers; leaders of the opposition in the Sindh assembly, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Mr. Jam Mumtaz, Mr. Nissar Khoro; the MQM chairman, Mr. Azim Ahmad Tariq; Secretary General Dr. Imran Farooq; and civil and military officials.

Addressing a cross section of the people, including ministers, assembly members, senators, members of the business community and politicians at the state guest house this morning, the prime minister said it was the national duty of all the citizens to make the operation in Sindh a success. The prime minister said all the patriotic elements have to think with the unity of (?thought) and objective that is the security and integrity of Pakistan [sentence as heard]. The prime minister said that he is undertaking the tour of Sindh with the sole objective to review the situation and meet a cross section of the people. He said it is good to talk face-to-face so that there are no misgivings in this regard. The prime minister said the government is giving top priority to the restoration of law and order as it is vital for rapid industrialization of Pakistan and solutions of problems including unemployment. The prime minister said the government has no political objective. He made it clear that the operation will be even-handed. He said he himself would give maximum time to supervise the operation.

Sharif Claims 'Encouraging Results' in Sindh

BK0806105392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has categorically said that the clean-up operation initiated against the dacoits [robbers], criminals, and terrorists in Sindh will be evenhanded and nobody will be allowed to interfere in this task. He was addressing the elite of Larkana Division in Jacobabad soon after arrival there from Sukkur this morning. He directed all concerned assigned with this task that action against the law-breakers and antisocial and anti-state elements be taken without any fear and favor. He said no political pressures will be accepted in this task at any cost.

The prime minister said that all the people who met him had supported the operation. He said that side by side coping with the law and order problem, steps are also being taken to end economic imbalance and take this province on the path of progress and prosperity. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that encouraging results are coming out of the clean-up operation. He was confident that the objective of the operation, which was to weed out criminals, dacoits, and terrorists will be achieved with the cooperation of peace-loving citizens.

Radio Pakistan representatives says that the notables of the area gave their suggestions to the prime minister to make operation clean-up a real success. Later, the prime minister left for Dera Bugti to express condolence with Nawab Akbar Bugti over the assasination of his son Salal Bugti.

Sharif Announces Sindh Economic Package

BK0706144892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, today announced a 5-billion-rupee socioeconomic package for Sindh, focusing the employment opportunities for the educated youth and provision of basic amenities in the underdeveloped areas of the province. The prime minister, who arrived in Sukkur this afternoon after a day-long visit to Dadu, Bannu Aqil, and Khaipur districts, said the package is a manifestation of the federal government's concern for the welfare of the province, particularly for its educated youth. The two schemes spread over two years will be called the prime minister's program for the development, for the employment of the educated youth of Sindh, and the prime minister's program for socioeconomic development of Sindh.

The program of employment of youth envisages induction into service of 1,500 doctors, 1,000 engineers, 500 graduates in agriculture and animal husbandry, and 1,000 postgraduates in science and humanities. In addition, employment will be provided to 10,000 teachers and lower staff in 500 schools. He referred to the poor educational and health care facilities in the province and regretted lack of potable water, poor condition of roads, and absence of power supply in large areas of Sindh. The prime minister disclosed that the package for socioeconomic development would cover 800 water supply and drainage schemes costing 1 billion rupees, electrification of 900 villages at the cost of 1 billion rupees, and construction of 1,500 farm-to-market roads at a cost of 1 billion rupees. The scheme for provision of employment to doctors and engineers, other professionals and school teachers would involve an expenditure of approximately 1.5 billion rupees.

The federal program for Sindh announced by the prime minister also provides for the development of infrastructure facilities in Karachi involving an expenditure of 1 billion rupees with a view to strengthen the police force in the province. The prime minister announced a federal grant to induct another 2,000 policemen in the Sindh police. The induction, he hoped, would help the provincial administration to enhance its police capabilities. The prime minister, who is on a three-day visit of the province, emphasized the need to execute the program efficiently, speedily, and judiciously. All employment under the scheme, he said, would be fixed on merit and should be clearly nonpartisan. The benefits of the scheme must filter down to the deserving and the poor for whom it was designed, he said. He was confident that these measures would go a long way in removing the hardships in the urban and rural areas of Sindh.

Finance Minister Discusses Boosting Economy

BK0806045292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz has said that concrete steps are being taken to boost the national economy and to place the country in the rank of middle-income countries by the end of the century. The steps include increasing the development expenditures, reducing nondevelopmental expenditures and budgetary

deficits, and increasing tax collection and foreign investment. He said this while speaking at a post-budget seminar organized by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Islamabad yesterday. The finance minister said that Pakistan has achieved the highest growth rate, recorded a 14 percent increase in exports, and achieved significant increased in agricultural production. Industrial growth, which was less than 6 percent over past few years, has now gone up to 8 percent and is expected to reach 9 percent next year. The government has also been successful in keeping the inflation rate below 10 percent. He said that the government is paying more attention on foreign investment than borrowing so as to reduce dependence on loans.

Indian Response to Code of Ethics Considered

BK0606164092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Official sources in Islamabad have expressed the hope that the Indian Government will promptly and positively respond to the Pakistani initiative in conveying its acceptance of the code of ethics instead of planting misleading stories in the Indian press. The source expressed surprise over the Indian newspapers reports carrying remarks of the spokesman of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs claiming that Pakistan had offered to propose a draft document two years ago following New Delhi's complaint about the discriminatory treatment to Indian diplomats. Pakistani official sources, as quoted by APP, said Islamabad had promised to come up with the draft code of ethics in November last year. The Pakistani move reflected concern over the shabby treatment meted out to its own diplomats and was aimed at committing New Delhi to respecting the Vienna Convention on privileges and inhuman treatment of diplomatic officials [sentence as heard]. In this connection, the official sources recalled the severe beating of the first secretary, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad, of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

Afghan Acting Information Minister Arrives 7 Jun

BK0706112692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] The acting minister for information and culture of Afghanistan, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Chakri, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a three-day official visit to Pakistan at head of a media delegation. He was received at the airport by the minister of state for sports, Malik Mohammad Ajmal Khan; secretary of information and media chiefs. Talking to newsmen on arrival, the acting information minister of Afghanistan said during their stay, they would exchange views with Pakistani officials on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in information and cultural fields. He thanked the government and people of Pakistan for providing assistance and shelter to Afghan people during the 14-year-long period.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Tajikistan

BK0706151292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Pakistan and Tajikistan have established diplomatic relations. A protocol to this effect was signed in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, by the minister of state for tourism, Shahzada Mohiuddin, and the Tajik foreign minister, Mr. (Khaliq Nazarov). The protocol will allow the two countries to establish embassies in each other's capital.

In Dushanbe, Shahzada Mohiuddin held talks with the Tajik prime minister, Akbar Mirzoyev, and the first deputy prime minister, Mr. (Takhtero Ghafoorov). The Tajik leaders expressed their desire to establish road links with Pakistan at the earliest possible. They appreciated the relief assistance given by Pakistan for the flood-affected people of Tajikistan. The head of the oppositon group of Tajikistan, the Islamic Renaissance Party, Mr. (Othman Daulat), also attended the talks.

A C-130 PAF [Pakistan Air Force] aircraft carrying medicines, rice, sugar, and other relief assistance for the people of Tajikistan severely hit by recent floods has reached Dushanbe. The minister of state for tourism personally delivered the relief consignment to Tajikistan. Shahzada Mohiuddin also delivered a special message from the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, to President Rakhman Nabiyev of Tajikistan. In his message, the prime minister expressed sympathy of the government and people of Pakistan for the flood-affected people of Tajikistan.

Sri Lanka

'More Than 60' LTTE Activists Killed 7 Jun

BK0806112392 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] More than 60 terrorists were killed yesterday, as troops of Operation Saptabala [seven forces] are reportedly closing in on the major logistic base of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the Mullaitivu district, at (Komalamunai). It is about 4 km west of (?Alampil). The troops received strong air, artillery, and armored support. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that 11 terrorist vehicles were destroyed. One soldier was killed in the fighting. The sources also said that four women LTTE terrorists with their weapons flung on their shoulders rode into a security forces' ambush near (Tirukedisvaram) on the main Mannar-Murunkan road in the Mannar district. They were shot dead and their weapons and ammunition recovered by the troops.

Economic Ties With Iran To Expand

LD0606122192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] At the end of the third session of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sri Lanka's joint economic committee, held in Colombo, the two countries agreed to expand their economic and commercial ties by setting up a specialized exhibition in Colombo of Iranian goods and investigating the possibility of investment by the Iranian private sector in turning rubber produced in Sri Lanka into tires.

The minister for economic affairs and finance and the Iranian head of the Iran-Sri Lanka joint economic committee, Mr. Nurbakhsh, in an interview with our correspondent on his return today, said: According to agreements reached, Iran is to cooperate with Sri Lanka in the fields of tea exports from Sri Lanka to the Central Asian republics and the export of that country's manufactured goods to the republics.

Accord Signed

BK0606123092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Sri Lanka and Iran have signed an economic cooperation agreement. It was initialed by the minister of trade and commerce, A.R. Mansoor, for Sri Lanka and the minister for economic affairs and finance and leader of the Iranian delegation, Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, yesterday. Iran is one of the main buyers of Sri Lanka tea. The annual purchases total around 13 million kg. Sri Lanka imports 50 percent of fuel requirements from Iran. In addition to these purchases, the Colombo Dockyard Company will undertake repairs of the Iranian vessels, according to the new agreement.